

Program Review for Accredited Programs

The UNC Program Review Guidelines state that programs with external accreditation may substitute the accreditation report for their comprehensive self-study, along with a summary of additional information needed for UNC's program review. This document is intended to provide clarification to accredited programs regarding the requirements for UNC's comprehensive program review.

Comprehensive program review serves three primary purposes at UNC: (1) assurance of program quality; (2) evaluation of program productivity and efficiency; and (3) identification of future goals and resource needs. Accredited programs provide assurance of program quality by acquiring or maintaining professional accreditation. For this reason, the accreditation report and findings of the accreditation team are an appropriate substitute for the elements of UNC's program review guidelines that address program quality, and accredited programs are not required to complete a SWOT analysis.

While the assurance of quality is an important aspect of program review, UNC also uses program review as a vehicle for monitoring certain measures of productivity and efficiency that are identified in the guidelines as "program review data." These data are provided annually by the Office of Institutional Analysis and should be submitted as part of the comprehensive review documentation. Accredited programs should examine these data and include a discussion in the summary document of any contributing factors that might explain low performance or significant changes during the review period. If the program review data trends have remained robust and stable over time, programs may omit the discussion of the data in the summary document, but they should be prepared to respond to questions about the data in the final meeting with the provost and dean.

In addition to evaluating program quality and productivity, program review is also used to set future goals and identify resources needed to maintain or improve the program. To address this aspect of comprehensive review, accredited programs should discuss the following in a summary document to be included with the comprehensive review documentation:

1. The extent to which the program has attained goals established prior to the current review.
2. A description of future goals and activities the program intends to pursue in order to maintain or improve the program.
3. A description of resource requests associated with future goals and actions.

The summary document should be prepared after the accreditation team has visited campus and issued its recommendation for accreditation status. The accreditation report, the accreditation teams' findings, and the program's review of the productivity and efficiency data should be considered when discussing future goals and resource needs. In cases where the accreditation visit and final report do not coincide with the February 28 deadline for UNC's program review, the deadline can be extended by notifying the Director of Assessment.

Required Documents for Comprehensive Review of Accredited Programs

1. Accreditation self-study report
2. Accreditation site-team report and findings
3. Supplemental summary document (discussion of productivity/efficiency data if required, performance on prior goals, discussion of future goals, and identification of resource needs)
4. Program review data (Insight report)