

**DCHP Dean's Response to
the Program Review Committee for the Department of Health Sciences
July 19, 2016**

Dean's response is in purple and in italics:

I would like to extend my gratitude to the review team for their time and expert advice to improve our programs. I also would like to thank the department chair, the program faculty, administrative support staff, students and the University administration for their ongoing support.

*An evaluation of the Health Sciences department in the Dumke College of Health Professions at Weber State University was conducted on **March 23, 2016** by the following Review Committee members:*

- Rodney Hansen (Chair of the Review Committee) - Department of Athletic Training and Nutrition, Weber State University
- Kathleen Cadman - School of Nursing, Weber State University
- JoAnn Fenn - Department of Pathology, Medical Laboratory Science Division, University of Utah School of Medicine
- Roger Bounds - Chair, Department of Health Sciences, Northern Arizona University

I concur with and support the commendations and recommendation of the Program Review Team. Additionally, I support, agree and praise the Departmental Response to the Program Review Committee. Please see both reports for full explanations, plans of action and disclosure.

A. Mission Statement

Strength: *Agreed*

Strong statement that clearly describes the overall and compelling mission of the Health Sciences Department.

Challenges: NA

Weaknesses: *Agreed with the modification of the Mission Statement*

It includes descriptive information about courses that is not usually part of a mission statement. The following is a suggestion that includes most of the current mission statement.

“The mission of the Health Sciences Department in the Dumke College of Health Professions is to provide the foundational course work needed for successful completion of Health Sciences Degrees and other Health Professions Degrees and to assist students in developing the learning and professional skills and values required for the health professions.”

NOTE: The following verbiage was deleted: “The course work is provided in multiple formats with measurable student learning outcomes for all sectors of the population. The courses are designed.” “The rigor of the courses also prepares students for majors throughout the university.”

B. Curriculum:

Strengths: *Agreed*

The department clearly has thoughtfully developed a curriculum that is consistent from semester to semester, from instructor to instructor that provides the kind of background knowledge needed for students to progress into nursing, medical laboratory science, radiology, dental hygiene, respiratory therapy, etc. There is also flexibility for students needing special projects or directed readings, where both student and faculty member benefit from this type of independent study coursework.

Challenges:

A faculty member will have 500+ students in a given semester, and will teach both on-line in in-person courses at the same time. Up to 80% of students taught are NOT accepted into a B.S. degree health science program, which is a significant concern for the faculty. Appropriately, they are looking at development of a meaningful B.S. program as another option for many students.

Potential collaboration with other programs in other WSU colleges may also address this 80% of students. This in itself may be a challenge.

This is a challenge and should be addressed with a needs assessment survey, funding resources for both space and faculty as part of the future planning for our college. We are in the process of finding avenues for funding and resources.

Weakness:

The laboratory space is inadequate and there are not enough laboratory aides for each laboratory session. This diminishes the ability of students to learn all that is expected so this issue has a direct impact on planning the laboratory curriculum. While existing faculty are commended for their efforts to use innovative scheduling and teaching techniques to accommodate a large number of students in laboratory activities, additional space is clearly needed.

I agree that the faculty should be commended for their efforts and innovative scheduling. That is a great strength. Although, we offer classes and laboratory education at the Davis Campus, we are desperately and actively searching for additional space anywhere we can. We are in need of laboratory and faculty office spaces not only for HS department, but for all of our DCHP programs and departments.

C. Student Learning Outcomes and Assessments

Strengths: *Agree*

Outstanding planning and implementation of lectures and laboratory sessions. Exam questions are linked to specific objectives so expectations and content knowledge are clear for students. The consistency and comprehensiveness of learning outcome assessment practice in the

department is noteworthy. Buy in from all faculty is present and structure is in place to document student performance for all learning outcomes. This is not common at other universities.

The Dean is very familiar with the objectives of the curriculum, and especially with popular courses including the Anatomy and Physiology course. The Dean has a clear and open communication with faculty regarding curriculum development and sustainability.

Students have a very clear sense of the expectations of faculty. Students seem very comfortable with how the curriculum is taught and assessed and feel the faculty have a vested interest in their education. The investment in and the addition of plasticized cadavers is an asset to the student learning process. Students reported high expectations from faculty, but also suggested they felt supported and were provided enough resources to be successful.

Challenges: *Agree*

There are not enough laboratory aides to assist in all labs, which means that the laboratory instructor must oversee students performing procedures in the wet lab, completing computer assignments in the computer laboratory, and observing images and working with anatomic parts in another area. Since laboratory instruction is integral to the coursework and learning outcomes, it is imperative that more laboratory aides be hired to meet the demand. We recommended increasing hourly pay to make the position more attractive.

There are many students and some graduates whom have had the courses and can be hired to help with the laboratory portions of the courses. WSU Career Center may possibly assist with looking for suitable candidates. Also, the scholarship office may look into students with work-study awards that can be hired.

Weaknesses:

See comments under “Challenges”.

D. Academic Advising

Strengths: *Agree*

Exceptional program in place with three full time advisors and one newly hired advisor. The advising is done in-person, on-line, and over the phone, so students have multiple options for getting information. The advising appears to be well structured and provides planning not only for courses but also for applying to health science programs and even career counseling.

Students feel advising is very good and that advisors are engaged in the students’ academic progression. Students feel that advisors were well informed and approachable, with special cases being well addressed, and students feel that they receive help with getting into programs.

Challenges: *Agree*

With a newly hired advisor “coming on board”, there was a question about space. There is not enough space for this person to be housed with the other three advisors, and it was not yet decided for certain where this person will be located. There was talk about the DATC (?) but nothing was decided.

We have secured additional Perkins funds and are currently interviewing for another advisor to help with the department needs. They may be housed in the offices across from and adjacent to the HS offices. They may also rotate between the main campus and the Davis Campus, depending on the need and the student population.

Weaknesses: *Agree and thank you*

None observed

E. Faculty

Strengths: *Agreed and very proud of our dedicated and well prepared faculty*

Impressive faculty who are committed to teaching at a high and innovative level. They have appropriate credentials and their professional experiences strengthen the credibility of the department at the university, regionally and nationally. They are motivated to conduct research as time permits, which is encouraged and supported.

The faculty are respectful of one another and of their students. The faculty teaching loads are high, but the morale and collegiality was also very high. The adjunct faculty feel accepted and included in the department, and they are equally dedicated and enjoy the opportunities to teach.

Challenges: *Agree*

Space in the laboratory areas of the department. This has been a consistent theme and challenge. It should be noted that the equipment and technology deployed in labs is high quality and well utilized to meet needs. It is the actual space available that is a limiting factor.

This is a priority for the entire college. There are many avenues that are being explored and will be addressed as soon as possible and with support of others.

Weaknesses:

None observed

F. Staff and Other Support

Strengths: *Agreed and would like to commend*

The department enjoys wonderful, professional support from its administrative assistant, secretaries, advisors and dedicated librarian. There is a commitment to providing laboratory and demonstration equipment (especially for anatomy) including the simulation table, and computer labs, which are all used daily.

Adjunct faculty, staff, and other support feel they contribute and are valued by tenure track faculty, students, and College of Health Sciences Administration.

Challenges:

They hope to add to their collection of anatomical models, etc. to enhance the learning experience for the students. The reviewers strongly recommend that the department receive the appropriate monetary support to do this.

With proper information, this will be funded.

Weaknesses: *Agree*

The laboratory areas are too small; the department needs more space.

G. Relationships with External Communities

The WSU Department of Health Sciences currently has no defined role in the external community.

This standard was not discuss this during our review. The documents we received stated that there is not a Program Advisory Committee, which is usually a requirement of programs that must meet accreditation guidelines. This department is not affiliated with an accrediting body.

Recommendation:

The department may want to explore development of a PAC, which could provide unique opportunities for fund raising, equipment resources, and ideas for meaningful B.S. program in the Health Science Department. Establishing a mechanism to obtain feedback from external community stakeholders can be a useful tool for curriculum revision.

WSU is working on Community – Anchor Compact. I recommend that the HS department explore ways for being more involved with the community we serve and the healthcare partners we collaborate with.

H. Results of Previous Program Reviews

This is the first program review of the Department of Health Sciences. There are no previous reviews to address.

Other Comments:

A common concern by this committee is the lack of physical space and facilities. It is noted that the faculty and staff are utilizing what they do have to greatest extend possible to the benefit of the students. To address this need, this committee recognized that the Dean of the College of

Health Sciences is seeking resource for expansion of facilities. Given the quality of education provided, and the number of students this program and the college of Health Sciences serve, it is hoped that the WSU administration recognizes the importance of giving high priority to the facility needs, and providing utmost assistance to the Dean in securing funding of facilities.

The faculty acknowledge and are serving and addressing the “eighty-percent student” or the student that may complete the associate degrees of this program, but may not be academically competitive to advance to a health related four year degree. The committee hopes that other Weber State University academic entities recognize the potential for growth that this situation offers, especially in the teacher education, health promotion, athletic therapy, and other programs housed in other departments and colleges at Weber State University

I would like to express my gratitude to those involved in the program review process and to those who prepared the documents. All the suggestions and input have been valuable and I support them with enthusiasm and commitment. With the support of the WSU administration, I look forward to acting upon your recommendations.

Thanks again, Yasmen Simonian, DCHP Dean

Program’s Additional Plans:

The department chair, faculty and staff of this department are very committed and will follow up with all the recommendations with full support of this administration.

Submitted Respectfully by: Yas Simonian, DCHP Dean

cc: Kraig Chugg, HS Chair