

# Evaluation Report for Program Review Face to Face Meeting

## University of Wisconsin-Whitewater: Chemistry (BA, BS, BSE) Majors and Minors, 2021-2022

**Date:** 5/12/2022

**Invited:** Interim Provost Robin Fox; Dean Frank Goza (L&S); Department Chair/Program Coordinator John Ejnik; faculty and staff in the Chemistry program Paul House, Kim Naber, Julia Rowebl, Audit & Review Team Chair Eric Appleton; Audit & Review team member Fe Evangelista, Assessment Representative Katy Casey

Overview of review team evaluation, program comments:

Discussion of Review Team's evaluation:

1 – The assessment plan included a lot of detail and yet was missing a structure of long-term planning such as a timeline. It would be helpful to understand the program's planning process and how course and accreditation data is used in the program review process.

- i) The program reported challenges in finding times to meet and discuss data use, most data is collected in courses by individual instructors in an on-going and continual basis
- ii) Chemistry is an accredited program and plans curriculum around ACS guidelines- which are designed so students who graduate are prepared for graduate school. ACS does not require assessment of student learning outcomes but recommends exams to measure students' progress compared to other students across the country.
- iii) Instructors review the exam scores and use that information to make decisions about what content to cover and/or review

2 – Enrollment has had a rather dramatic decrease but is noted to reflect both statewide and national trends. It's also noted that lower enrollment levels have actually contributed to the vitality of the department in terms of available resources and staffing (they were understaffed at enrollment peak in 16-17). Does the program anticipate current enrollment holding? Any concerns related to recruitment or retention?

- i) The program lost some positions in addition to decreasing enrollment, so it evened out in terms of resources
- ii) The program teaches courses at 100 and 200 level for Biology and Safety
- iii) Optimal number of students is 100- program is discussing another program that may attract new students, such as a focus on homeopathy
- iv) Advisory board meeting scheduled to discuss programming,
- v) Another idea to address enrollment is to create 1-credit courses that may be of interest to

those seeking professional development offerings

- vi) Dean Goza asked about moving the program online- the program feels they could offer that option, but it was not received well in the past by the advisory board. Concern seems to be completing labs, which has proven to be the most valuable learning experience for students (reported by alums). Some face-to-face lab options (augmenting online instruction) have been attempted but there's no data at this point that they were particularly successful. Sessions were popular with pre-med students from UW-Madison.
- vii) Interim Provost Fox asked if any technical colleges feed into the chemistry program? Dean Goza shared information on a transfer agreement for those with an Associate Degree
- viii) The College is supportive of equipment needs and purchases supplies and materials needed to run program.

Interim Provost Fox noted the interest and unique nature of homeopathy- in the region. Dean Goza brought up the Integrated Science and Business program, which is also unique in the system and region. Appleton noted that the hands-on nature of the lab preparation and equipment maintenance was a unique feature that gives our graduates an edge. Also mentioned by the department is the practice of including undergraduates on research projects that result in publication with students listed as co-authors.

## Recommended Actions:

### Recommended Action #1

Use the template offered by the Office of Academic Assessment to clarify the overall multi-year assessment plan. Plan should clarify timeline, process, and implementation, and clarify student performance with regard to SLOs. Curricular map to include note of SLO introduction, development, and assessment. Program already collects and uses much data; what is requested for action is clarification of the plan, not the data.

### Recommended Action #2

Program goals that advance the program should include clearer process outline and assessment data support. Clarify process of program goal creation and implementation, and how assessment collection and data is used throughout.

## Recommended Result:

Continuation with minor concerns.

## Next Self-study and/or Progress Report Due Dates:

1 - Next FULL self-study will be due to the Dean on May 1, 2026 and to the Assessment Office on August 1, 2026

2 - A progress report will be due October 1, 2023, to the Dean, and November 1, 2023, to the Assessment Office

*For a copy of the full evaluation report and detailed comments, please reach out to the assessment office: [assessment@uww.edu](mailto:assessment@uww.edu).*