

Evaluation Report for Program Review Face to Face Meeting

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater: Computer Science (BA, BS) Majors and Minors, 2022-2023

Date: 4/19/2023

Invited: Provost John Chenoweth; Dean Frank Goza (L&S); Department Chair/Program Coordinator Jiazhen Zhou; faculty and staff in the Computer Science program Sue Roberts, Zach Oster, Hien Nguyen, Athula Gunawardena; Audit & Review Team Chair Denise Roseland; Audit & Review team members Pascal Latourneau, Rachael Chaphalkar; Assessment Representative Katy Casey

Overview of review team evaluation, program comments

Discussion of Review Team's evaluation:

1 – Given the available resources, what is the right balance of majors and minors that can be supported while still maintaining program quality and student enrollment level?

The biggest goal of the program is to secure tenure track faculty. This will help address the increasing workloads of current faculty and staff. The program continues to grow in enrollment, creates new tracks and courses to address student interests and employment demands. The staff are currently maintaining extremely high student to faculty teaching loads (42:1), and student interest groups, advising, and tutoring are additional time commitments.

2 – What are the most pressing resource needs of the program? What can the program do, or do more of, with an increase in these resources?

- Discussed current staffing needs in the previous answer, two faculty lines are open and the program is close to filling one of the lines. However, the field is competitive and it is difficult to find candidates to accept positions at current salary offerings.
- Department advocates well for their needs, and communicates regularly with Dean's office.
- Technology needs of the program: Computer Science is mindful of the need to plan ahead when it comes to technology resources; these resources also require staff to support the technology.
- Dean Goza noted that he believes resources will continue to be a problem because of staff turnover, and unless salaries increase and become more competitive it will be difficult to fill lines moving forward; the program should consider developing talented students to help address program needs

Dean Goza asked: What happens to the students who are not successful (roughly 30%)? The program thinks those students choose to transfer because lack of interest in the subject, and some finish in the

liberal studies program. The program is working to identify those students early and support them prior to them getting too far along and end up with limited options.

The program requested additional funds to support students through tutoring. The program makes tutoring from faculty and students available, but finds the students do not take advantage.

Provost Chenoweth recognized the great work of the program and significant time commitment to create new tracks and courses, as well as supporting a large number of students. He encouraged the program to think through how to support the third of students who struggle around the 1st semester sophomore point (where students are identified as repeating courses or failing core courses), and to consider a track for those students so they are retained somewhere at the University. The program noted the benefit of a new L&S advisor who has been supporting students during that point when they may need to find another course of study. They believe, with the help of this advisor, they will see improved retention rates.

Recommended Actions:

Recommended Action #1

Lay out a clear, realistic and feasible plan/vision for the program addressing program management, hiring, and retention of faculty.

Recommended Action #2

Include a timeline in the assessment plan and review the assessment process to reflect 5-years of activity. Describe how the program shares, makes meaning of, and uses the data collected from embedded assessments.

Recommended Action #3

Review retention and graduation rates of major and identify potential barriers to success (e.g., relatively high DFW rates in introductory courses).

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, 2029 and to the Assessment Office on August 1, 2029

For a copy of the full evaluation report and detailed comments, please reach out to the assessment office: assessment@uww.edu.