

Evaluation Report for Program Review Face to Face Meeting

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater: Information Technology (BBA) Majors and Minors, 2021-2022

Date: 1/28/2022

Invited: Provost John Chenoweth; Interim AVC Kristin Plessel; Interim Dean Paul Ambrose, Department Chair/Program Coordinator Andy Ciganek; faculty and staff in the Information Technology program; Audit & Review Team Chair Lynn Gilbertson; Audit & Review team members John Pruitt, Edward Gimbel, Ahmad Karim, Assessment Representative Katy Casey.

Overview of review team evaluation, program comments:

Dr. Ciganek appreciates the work of the faculty and staff in the program. He noted that the Professional Development offerings and campus investment was helpful in preparing the report. Praised program leaders in making completing the report not too difficult- the work is ongoing.

Discussion of Review Team's evaluation:

1 – How is the program working with ICIT to eliminate barriers to access unique curricular technology?

The self-study provided an opportunity to reflect on program needs. Since identifying this need, we are working to build a partnership with ICIT in order to avoid technology issues that are a result of cumbersome structures and processes. For example, the program is working with ICIT to preventatively address technology needs when creating a new lab.

2 – Does the program feel a need to further distinguish IT from computer science to support recruitment and retention?

Outside the campus community prospective students see the field as computer science. There is a lot of effort that would need to be put forth to change that perspective (outside of current practices in admission days and high school student visits). More effort would be best invested to strategically partner with computer science to create experiences and connect with students early in their programs (student events, organizations, classes). Additionally, computing programs across campus have worked to meet specific interests of students and demands of the field through a breadth of program offerings (e.g., data science, business analytics). Information about various program offerings is shared through word of mouth by students and through various introductory courses across COBE. The programs goal is to forge collaborative relationships rather than competitors.

3 – Is the current structure of assessing the SLOs sustainable?

Initial plan to assess all the goals so we have a baseline of data. Moving forward, the plan is to focus on select SLOs and not collect data on all SLOs every term.

4 – Faculty member noted the cumbersome process of curriculum changes, which makes responding to changes in the field quickly challenging. Feels this is out of the program's control.

- Provost Chenoweth commented on some of the challenges in distinguishing programs between computing programs (e.g., IT and Computer Science). Both fields prepare students with similar skills and tend to be qualified for the same jobs.
- Information Technology self-study will include business analytics during the next review cycle.
- Dean Ambrose suggested aligning program review and the AACSB timeline.

Recommended Actions:

Recommended Action #1

Provide an update on the self-identified areas (enrollment, reputation, assessment, and diversity) for improvement described in section VI 2. of the report.

Recommended Action #2

Provide an update on how the assessment plan has informed or facilitated achievement of student learning outcomes and curriculum in section IV 3. and V 5.

Recommended Result:

Continuation without qualification

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

1 - Next SHORT self-study will be due to the Dean on May 1, 2028 and to the Assessment Office on August 1, 2028

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