

Evaluation Report for Program Review Face to Face Meeting

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater: Physics (BS, BSE) Majors and Minors, 2024-2025

Date: 4/23/2025

In Attendance: Assistant Vice Provost Kristin Plessel; Dean Jason Janke (L&S); Department Chair/ Program Coordinator Ozgur Yavuzcetin; faculty and staff in the Physics program Steven Sahyun; Program Review Team Chair Dennis Kopf; Assessment Representative Katy Casey

Overview of review team evaluation, program comments:

- i) At the start of the meeting, the Program Chair Dr. Yavuzcetin asked to share some information on the program status and accomplishments. Some of the highlights included a department overview which provided important context of the program relative to others in size, content, and rigor. In addition, he shared the value of the dual-degree program established between the UWW Physics Department and three other regional comprehensives.
- ii) The review team also acknowledged the accomplishments of the program and various strengths evident in the self-study. The review team commented on the time invested in supporting students through the program in a timely fashion, and prioritizing the integration of high impact practices.

Discussion of Review Team's evaluation:

1 – The program is doing a lot of good work and has an impressive alumni base. Are there ways to make the work more visible to prospective students and external stakeholders?

The Department Chair shared a number of program accomplishments, including some by program alumni. The question was posed on how to make those accomplishments more visible, and discussion ensued regarding how to promote the work of the program and maintain current teaching, research, and service loads. The AVP and Dean shared ideas such as revising content of the website, and sharing information with the Dean that he can use when promoting the College and its various programs.

2 – Provide an update on the open faculty line.

Since writing the self-study, the program has filled this open faculty line.

3 – The credits to degree are high, and the author did a good job describing the reason. Can you share more about how that may or may not impact student interest or retention in the program?

The program reiterated that their curriculum is aligned well with that of other Physics programs and reflect the rigor necessary to be successful in the field. Additionally, they reported high retention rates. There was some discussion of how the program supports students who may struggle. Overall, once

students select the Physics major, their interest and retention in the program is not negatively impacted by the number of credits or rigor.

Recommended Actions:

Recommended Action #1

Describe the ways you are capitalizing on the unique aspects of your program, those that set it apart from others in the region, to increase the visibility of the program and potentially attract more students.

Recommended Action #2

Include a clearer description of the timeline for reviewing student learning data. In addition, share the actions the program takes based on the review and analysis of student learning data.

Recommended Action #3

Provide more information on the current advising and career exploration models. Could there be other ways to structure these important components of your program so that the current/faculty staff are not overworked?

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, 2031 and to the Assessment Office on August 1, 2031

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