

Undergraduate Program Review  
**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
2002-2003

Ten programs were to be reviewed. Nine of the ten were reviewed. The Restaurant and Foodservice Management program was not reviewed as it has been phased out of the university's program inventory.

1. **Agriculture Science** - *strengths*: AGSC has seen an increase in enrollment, resulting from greater recruitment efforts. The faculty do a good job meeting the needs of a large number of students particularly in light of the limited number of faculty teaching in the program. Faculty have established a solid and respected academic teaching preparation program for future AGSC instructors. Curriculum revisions are flexible and responsive to student needs, State demands and changing requirements of the marketplace. Faculty credentials, reputation and teaching successes are strong. Syllabi reflect learner-centered and outcomes-based educational philosophies. *Weaknesses*: With two faculty responsible for 93 majors, there is a need for an increase in faculty. The student/faculty ratio was identified in the self-study as one of the factors detracting from advising, the quality of mentorship and faculty research. Lack of courses taught via TTVN or web-based instruction reduces the degree to which this program can reach potential students and extend the reach to under-served regions or areas. Curriculum alignment within the department to avoid duplication of subject matter is an area in need of improvement as identified by the self-study. There is a need to update the Ag Mechanics shop facilities to allow for greater variety of equipment for student training. With the exception of internship experience, students have little experience with field or laboratory research work which would give students a broader experience and greater career potential. Operating budget is insufficient for a program with nearly 100 majors, with significant safety prescriptions and substantial maintenance responsibilities for the upkeep of both equipment and facilities.

*Recommendations*: With an aging cohort of AGSC teachers in Texas public schools, an integrated plan to both recruit potential AGSC teachers and place them seems to be in order. No clear statement of any unified strategy to either recruit or place students is evident in the Program Review document. The student/faculty ratio should be lowered. An increase in the number of full-time, tenured-tenure track faculty seems in order. Updates in the Ag Mechanics shop facilities and curriculum revisions to avoid redundancy should be undertaken. Undergraduates should be required to take at least one chemistry course prior to graduation rather than the current option of choosing to take two biology courses.

2. **Chemistry** - Consensus of the Committee is that documentation provided to American Chemical Society makes an important contribution to the TAMU-Kingsville Undergraduate Academic Program Review. However, there are a number of points that the ACS review does not address. Specifically, there is no indication of assessment of curriculum, students or faculty performance. Advising is not covered. Faculty are listed, but there is no information regarding their qualifications. Finally, there is no self-evaluation of the Chemistry Department's strengths and weaknesses.

*Recommendations* - The issues above be addressed in a revised review.

3. **Geography, Geology and Physics** - The program review committee reviewed the departmental self-study and found the following *strengths*: programs proficient at offering service courses to the university; geography is attempting to add broadcast meteorology as a concentration; physics has impressive grant funding; TTVN courses may be good service to our market; geology indicates impressive efforts to keep course offerings current and relevant. *Weaknesses* include geography and geology problems staffing courses; all seem to have limited recruitment activity; all have low majors; geography and geology have limited travel funds and geology and physics have limited equipment funds; courses specifically designed for education majors should have content correlation to Texas education standards on syllabi.

*Recommendations* - Continue to offer service courses with existing faculty; if majors increase, hire geography faculty; enhance recruitment efforts; pursue outside funding.

4. **Health** - The program review committee reviewed the departmental self-study and found the following *strengths*: offering community health noncertification program as a means of responding to market conditions; courses taught by full-time faculty; assessment includes workplace and alumni feedback; high rapport between students and faculty; some faculty solicitation and receipt of external funding. *Weaknesses* include program review report failed to document certain claims requiring committee to formulate conclusions based on appearances; assessment tools appear to be more qualitative than quantitative in nature; student enrollment small; excessively high faculty turnover; concern for 18% failure rate on ExCET; few faculty pursue external funding.

*Recommendations* - Develop additional assessment tools to evaluate objectively learner outcomes and teacher performance; document recruitment and retention efforts to increase student enrollment and reduce faculty turnover; document efforts to encourage faculty to solicit external funding.

5. **Human Sciences** - The program review committee reviewed the departmental self-study and found the following *strengths*: the program review document was well done and stated those areas which are of concern; assessment of curriculum is taking place and the assessment data is being utilized; enrollment has been consistent for the past five years; has strict writing requirement; practical experience gained by students before graduation; have developed articulation agreements with other institutions; faculty are well-qualified and conduct externally funded research; department was granted Accreditation of the Didactic Program in Dietetics. *Weaknesses* include faculty stability; shortage of full time tenured or tenure-track faculty; high number of courses taught by part-time faculty; limited course offerings every third semester; limited recruitment activities; limited funds for equipment and course materials; and number of publications is low.

*Recommendations* - Hire one or two additional full-time, tenure-track faculty; recruit via advertisement, web pages, etc.; seek additional external sources of funding for equipment and course materials.

6. **Kinesiology** - The program review committee reviewed the departmental self-study and found the following *strengths*: faculty have made significant progress to implement goals and objectives of the department; graduate faculty are engaged in research and include undergraduate students in that research; regional demographics and shortage of coaches indicate that enrollment is likely to continue to grow. *Weaknesses* include lack of resources; inability to maintain junior faculty and sustain senior faculty due to heavy instructional responsibilities; lack of external funding.

*Recommendations* - Develop a comprehensive funding/marketing program. The department should find corporate sponsors and make concerted efforts to support their research and service activities; purchase equipment, recruitment, supplies, supplement travel, etc.

7. **Mathematics** - The program review committee reviewed the departmental self-study and found the following *strengths*: review document frankly states those areas which are of concern; high quality faculty with extensive teaching experience; essential support in math courses to other colleges and departments. *Weaknesses* include - document needs improvement in following areas: (a) state in full the objectives to be addressed under each topic (b) resolve inconsistencies between Table A and the bar chart (c) provide text/narrative to address various tables (d) highlight differences in the curriculum among the various majors (degrees) offered; more funding opportunities in teacher training should be sought; limited resources for computing facility and accessibility; insufficient communication and coordination between department and other colleges and departments; no concrete solutions to solve problems including student preparedness, passing standardized tests and others; majors have not done well on standardized tests intended to evaluate the program quality.

*Recommendations* - Need more effective communication and coordination between department and other colleges and departments, especially University College and College of Engineering; if possible separate math classes should be offered for the math majors and nonmath majors; great demand for math teachers should be better exploited in student recruitment and external fundraising. Additional suggestions were provided for improving the math program review report.

8. **Restaurant and Foodservice Management** - Program no longer in program inventory.