



**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS  
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS**

**Institutional Program Review  
Report to the Board of Regents**

Use this form to submit a program review report to the system Chief Academic Officer. Complete this form for all units/programs undergoing an accreditation review, nationally recognized review process, or institutional program review. The report is due 30 days following receipt of the external and internal review reports.

|                              |                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>UNIVERSITY:</b>           | DSU                            |
| <b>DEPARTMENT OR SCHOOL:</b> | College of Arts and Sciences   |
| <b>PROGRAM REVIEWED:</b>     | Bachelor of Science in Biology |
| <b>DATE OF REVIEW:</b>       | 2/9/2018                       |
| <b>TYPE OF REVIEW:</b>       | Institutional Program Review   |

**University Approval**

*To the Board of Regents and the Executive Director: I certify that I have read this report, that I believe it to be accurate, and that it has been evaluated and approved as provided by university policy.*

*J. M. Gustaf*

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the University

8/30/2018

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**1. Identify the program reviewers and any external accrediting body:**

Dr. Janet Steele, Ph.D., Professor of Biology  
Associate Dean, College of Graduate Studies and Research  
University of Nebraska-Kearney

**2. Items A & B should address the following issues: mission centrality, program quality, cost, program productivity, plans for the future, and assessment of progress.**

The program's recent redesign with the two options of integrative biology or pre-health curriculum supports a wide variety of students in the region. The well-considered use of technology in the methods courses, laboratories, and lecture meets the University's mission.

**2(A). Describe the strengths and weaknesses identified by the reviewers**

**Strengths:**

- The faculty is extremely talented, knowledgeable, and dedicated to their students and the mission of the university

- The faculty teaching support courses in mathematics, chemistry, and physics are also supportive of their biology colleagues in collaboration regarding curriculum, research, and other programmatic issues.
- A surprising amount of high-quality research has been accomplished in the past few years.
- With some exceptions, the facilities are in good shape and provide the necessary space and learning environment for students and faculty.
- Nearly all of the graduates go directly to relevant careers or graduate schools.

**Weaknesses:**

- Research expectations are unrealistic for most faculty due to their teaching loads. Faculty workload was relieved somewhat from the addition of the lab manager position, but more could be done.
- Institutional support for research equipment is insufficient due to the way the lab fees are used to fund lab and research equipment. Lab fees should be increased.
- Curriculum would be strengthened with appropriate pre-requisite courses for advanced subjects.
- Low enrollments in the major were noted as were the implications on curriculum, course management, as well as fiscal impact. Having funding primarily driven by general education courses is a concern.

**2(B). Briefly summarize the review recommendations**

- Provide a more predictable funding stream for basic lab equipment and research. Raise the lab fees in order to facilitate this effort.
- Consider course load and course management to provide time to faculty for grant writing and research.
- Market the two emphasis areas within the degree in order to attract students.
- The assessment being done is a good start with more formative assessment to be designed across the program.

**2(C). Indicate the present and continuous actions to be taken by the college or department to address the issues raised by the review. What outcomes are anticipated as a result of these actions?**

- The support for research funds and faculty travel funds was increased. Institutional funding was provided to purchase a three-year contract to maintain the mass spectrometer, so lab fees were not depleted for this expense.
- The Provost has implemented 100% reimbursement for travel up to \$1,200 per faculty member per year to support professional development and scholarship.
- The Provost, Dean, Registrar, and faculty are implementing the new major program pre-health curriculum and will be seeking to replace the microbiologist in the coming year (Prof. Videau took a position elsewhere just as this reviewer was completing her work). We will work to find a good fit for pre-health curriculum and advising such students.
- The University is currently increasing its marketing capacity and is making plans for marketing and recruiting for the two areas of the new Biology B.S.