



MINNESOTA STATE

Academic and Student Affairs  
November 2022

## Program Review and Quality Assurance Initiative Update

**Strategic Objective(s):** Equity 2030

**Focus Area:** Student Success and Equity

### Description/Goal/Intended Outcomes:

- The Academic and Student Affairs division created a position dedicated to Program Support and Quality Assurance to develop and implement systemwide program review processes. These processes are to ensure quality and to support colleges' and universities' program review practices aligning with institutional and specialized accreditation requirements.
- The system-level Program Review and Quality Assurance process develops and implements quality assurance practices in support of colleges and universities' regular and ongoing practice of quality assurance and continuous improvement aligned with the institutional and specialized accreditation requirements.
- Program Review and Quality Assurance supports institutional need in the improvement of academic program review (APR) processes and practices at the campus level to stay in compliance with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) accreditation policy (HLC Accreditation Criteria 4.A.1 and 4.B).
- Program Review and Quality Assurance includes providing resources and opportunities to affirm and/or improve campuses' processes and practices.
- Program Review and Quality Assurance provides resources to individual institutions to support in practicing regular and ongoing academic program review for quality assurance and continuous improvement.

### Background/Previous Work/Outcomes:

- Law Enforcement Program Review submissions were completed by October 15, 2022. With programs aligned with the recommendations of the Minnesota State Taskforce on Law Enforcement Education Reform, the current law enforcement programs will change their names to replace "law enforcement" with "peace officer" by Fall 2023.

- Law Enforcement Skills Program Review will continue efforts to improve the consistency across the programs, in collaboration with the Minnesota Peace Officer Standards and Licensure Board.
- Systemwide Program Review Quality Assurance and Support Initiatives may advance with the following activities:
  - Professional development workshops on various aspects of academic program review are being developed in Fall 2022, in collaboration with the Minnesota State Educational Development and Technology unit. Materials from these workshops should be invaluable additions to the academic program review resource library.
  - Proposed periodical review of campus-level program review processes and practice maybe launched (preferably in collaboration with the Accreditation and Assessment Director).
  - Academic Program Review related sections in Minnesota State Board Policy 3.36 and System Procedure 3.36.1. may need to be reviewed to clarify academic program review expectations and systemwide review/feedback processes.
  - Academic Program Review Community of Practice can provide an invaluable opportunity for SAOs, deans, IR professionals, and faculty to share best practices and identify campus needs.
- Transfer Pathway Program Review will commence its third phase in Fall 2022 and fourth phase in Spring 2023. The third phase will review transfer pathways programming in chemistry, communication studies, political science, and law enforcement while the fourth phase will review computer science, English, exercise science, mathematics, and Spanish. The Academic Programs and Transfer team will coordinate a transfer pathways program improvement workshop for each discipline and facilitate examination of program effectiveness.

## Activities for all 3 Year and Progression Measures

### FY2023

- Develop an accountability framework to monitor progress on improving transfer and to evaluate compliance with board policy and transfer goals.
- Law Enforcement Programs:
  - Programs' completion of Individual Program Improvement Plans .
- Transfer Pathway Programs:
  - Phases III and IV: Transfer Pathways Program Review program improvement workshop will commence in Fall 2022 and Spring 2023.
  - Phase III Programs include: chemistry, communication studies, political science, and law enforcement/peace officer programs
  - Phase IV Programs include: computer science, English, exercise science, mathematics, and Spanish
- All Other Programs:
  - Pilot implementation Program Review and Quality Assurance process

## FY2024

- Transfer Pathway Programs:
  - Continue next phase of Transfer Pathways Program Review program improvement with workshop in Spring 2024.
- All Other Programs:
  - Full roll-out and implementation of Program Review and Quality Assurance process.

## FY2025

### Board of Trustees Engagement

*New actions in bold*

- Updated on accreditation provided in May 2022.
- **Study session on transfer in November 2022.**
- **Update on the role of board governance in Higher Learning Commission Accreditation and specialized accreditation in January 2023.**
- **Update on transfer in June 2023.**

### Expected Campus Engagement

- Transfer and DARS conference in October 2022.
- Systemwide accreditation and assessment conference in December 2022.
- Update to senior campus academic and student affairs leaders in December 2022.
- Transfer Pathways improvement workshops (ongoing).

### Staff Lead Contact(s)

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### Monitoring Framework

- Accountability framework for transfer goals and compliance.
- Transfer, gateway course completion, and credit momentum goals.