

Evaluation Report for Program Review Face to Face Meeting University of Wisconsin-Whitewater: Communication Sciences and Disorders (MS), 2022-2023

Date: 5/3/2023

Invited: Provost John Chenoweth; Dean Matt Vick (Graduate Studies); Interim Dean Lana Collet-Klingenberg (Education and Professional Studies); Department Chair/Program Coordinator Lynn Gilbertson; faculty and staff in the Communication Sciences and Disorders program; Audit & Review Team Chair Rhea Vichot; Audit & Review team members Pavan Chennamane, Christine Neddenriep; Matt Vick, and Assessment Representative Katy Casey

Overview of review team evaluation, program comments:

First of all, high praise to the department for their efforts in creating a sustainable program focused on clinical practice, given the limitations of staffing at present. The review team wanted to highlight the creative efforts by the department at maintaining quality education, finding clinical placement for students, and maintaining accreditation through KALIPSO and KASA metrics as well as the MELOs.

The review team had a few concerns regarding staffing challenges and the potential for burnout among present staff.

Discussion of Review Team's evaluation:

1 – What efforts has the department taken to diversify the student cohorts? What similar efforts are being made with regards to hiring?

Program follows an inclusive model when accepting and supporting students. The diversity of the applicant pool is often limited, and the faculty and staff are working to promote the field so more people are aware of the speech/language profession.

Provost suggested exploring potential pathways with diverse programs (either on or off campus) that could help attract a more diverse pool.

Program chair shared efforts to identify barriers to attracting a diverse pool of students and how the staff work to address and remove those barriers- for example, marketing and promotion.

There is potential to grow the program with appropriate resources and the Provost encouraged the program to identify what tangibles are needed in order to increase enrollment.

2- What additional examples does the department have that shows data collection and analysis to make changes to curriculum?

Answered in discussion above.

3 – Given the efforts put in place by the department towards recruitment and retention of staff, is there any new information since submitting the report you can share? What else can administration do to support these efforts?

One open faculty line for a second year. This past year, the program widely advertised the position, but did not see much of an increase in applicants with that approach. For the upcoming year's search, faculty will travel in the region to meet with recent doctoral graduates to promote the program and try to recruit applicants. The College Dean is going to support the cost of the travel to do this work.

In general, it is difficult to recruit faculty due to a shortage of professionals with necessary credentials, as well as pay and workload.

Recommended Actions:

Recommended Action #1

Provide Staffing Update including open lines, include a review of reasons for staff attrition.

Recommended Action #2

Experiment with 1-2 new recruitment ideas to intentionally attract and admit a more diverse body of students and evaluate the results.

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, 2030, and to the Assessment Office on August 1, 2030

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