

# Evaluation Report for Program Review Face to Face Meeting

## University of Wisconsin-Whitewater: Occupational Safety (BS) Majors and Minors, 2023-2024

**Date:** 3/8/2024

**Invited:** Provost John Chenoweth; Dean Paul Ambrose (Business & Economics); Department Chair/Program Coordinator Donna Vosburgh; faculty and staff in the program; Audit & Review Team Chair Ted Gimbel; Audit & Review team members Denise Roseland, John Ejnik, and Kelly Delaney-Klinger; Assessment Representative Katy Casey

### Overview of review team evaluation, program comments:

The review team chair, Dr. Gimble, summarized the review team's evaluation of the short self-study.

### Discussion of Review Team's evaluation:

1 – The program is close to finalizing two articulation agreements (Blackhawk Tech and the CC of the Air Force) and has begun working on another agreement with Cuyamaca College in California. If these agreements are successful, will the program have enough staffing and resources to serve the students?

The Blackhawk articulation agreement is done. The Air Force partnership will work through credits for prior learning (CPL)- not sure of enrollment numbers yet. Whatever is accepted through CPL will include assessment to ensure alignment with ABET. There may be time to space out student enrollment in program courses through staggering completion of general education courses. The anticipate start state of summer 2024.

Cuyamaca – working on transfer paperwork for students at Cuyamaca to complete their studies at UWW.

The program feels comfortable with current resources supporting the increased enrollment based on these partnerships.

2 – There seems to be demand for graduates of this program. What does the program see as the biggest obstacle to attracting students?

The program is working on increasing awareness that the program exists and of careers opportunities in environmental health and safety. They have been working with COBE marketing and communicating career paths with students, including those who are enrolled in the BAAS at the Rock County campus. There were also some course numbering changes to attract students earlier in their academic careers (i.e., freshman and sophomore levels).

3 – What would it take to address issues with the CEC lab to make it fully operational? It seems a lot of time and money has been invested and yet the program is not able to use the space the way it would like.

The use of space at the CEC was launched in 2020, which is when the pandemic hit campus and shut down deliveries and operations. Other issues that arose could not have been anticipated until the lab was up and running. The CEC is currently being used and while there are challenges, it is functional. There were many examples of how it's being used and they enjoy having the lab and find it necessary for the major- the facility helped with ABET accreditation.

The Provost noted that the lease on the CEC may not continue after 2026, and the campus is exploring other options for the lab.

## Recommended Actions:

### Recommended Action #1

Continue to develop the strategic plan focusing on a timeline of program activities to meet program goals, and increasing/maintaining instructional staff.

### Recommended Action #2

Work with the campus and College to complete the implementation of the OESH laboratory in the Community Engagement Center. This should include assessing the likelihood of the CEC space reaching the point where it is adequate to the needs of the program.

### Recommended Action #3

Assess the extent to which the program has the resources (instructional, lab) needed to continue the development of high-quality graduates. If enrollment increases because of the articulation agreements, it may be necessary to fill the second vacated faculty position.

## 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, 2028, and to the Assessment Office on August 1, 2028

*For a copy of the full evaluation report and detailed comments, please reach out to the assessment office: [assessment@uww.edu](mailto:assessment@uww.edu).*