

Evaluation Report for Program Review Face to Face Meeting University of Wisconsin-Whitewater: Environmental Safety & Health (MS), 2023-2024

Date: 3/8/2024

Invited: Provost John Chenoweth; Dean Paul Ambrose (Business & Economics) and Dean Matt Vick (Graduate Studies); Department Chair/Program Coordinator Donna Vosburgh/Todd Loushine; faculty and staff in the program; Audit & Review Team Chair Christine Neddenriep (Katy Casey filling in at meeting); Audit & Review team members Amal Ibrahim; Assessment Representative Katy Casey

Overview of review team evaluation, program comments:

The meeting chair shared the review team's evaluation, focusing on program structure, accomplishments, and strengths. The program coordinator reiterated the value of the online MS in attracting "non-traditional" students (e.g., working professionals and career changers) to the high demand field.

Discussion of Review Team's evaluation:

1 – Share the progress the program made on completing and distributing the alumni survey.

The alumni survey has been completed but still needs to be reviewed and approved by the program. The plan is to use Qualtrics to administer the survey and find alumni through Linked In and other social media connections, survey data that graduating students complete, and the alumni office.

2 – What is the program's optimal enrollment?

The program reported the ability to increase enrollment with current resources and support. The staff also noted the dips in enrollment due to students taking breaks to transition to a new job or promotion, and then returning to complete the program once the transition is completed.

3 – Discuss the program's decision not to pursue accreditation. In the accreditation response, there was mention of the Certified Safety Professional (CSP) designation- does the program help students meet these criteria and achieve this status?

The CSP exam is not required to practice in most states. The program actively works to prepare students to take the exam but do not report any value in requiring it for program completion.

Recommended Actions:

Recommended Action #1

Describe how the program uses the data collected from the assessment plan to drive program initiatives forward, and inform curricular decisions (e.g., course sequence, capstone performance). For example, share assessment results with external advisory board and discuss recommendations for informing curricular changes based on student performance.

Recommended Action #2

Develop a method to communicate with alumni such as a LinkedIn page or follow up communication after the planned survey is completed.

Recommended Action #3

Provide more detail, with specific strategies, on how the program will increase student diversity. Some examples include outreach initiatives to schools in diverse areas, forming partnerships focused on diversity, and providing scholarships aimed at these communities. Additionally, establishing mentorship programs and incorporating an inclusive curriculum may further support the retention and success of underrepresented students.

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, 2029 and to the Assessment Office on August 1, 2029

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