

Systematic Program Review

Name of Unit: Speech Communication – Undergraduate Program
Reporting Official: Dr. Salma Ghanem, Chair

Item 1

Is your program (undergraduate, master's or doctoral program, academic support unit, service unit, center, administrative/staff department/unit) currently reviewed on a regular basis (e.g., annually, biennially, every 5 years)? Examples of systematic review include, but are not limited to: academic program review, internal audits, external accreditation, external review by a consultant, peer review, etc.

Yes No

If "YES", go to Item 2. If "NO", check that box and return form to OIRE.

Item 2

Type an "X" next to the type(s) of program review that applies to your unit, the date of your last review and the date of the next expected review:

	Date of	Date of
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> academic program review	_____ last review	_____ next review
<input type="checkbox"/> internal audit	_____ last review	_____ next review
<input type="checkbox"/> external accrediting agency	_____ last review	_____ next review
<input type="checkbox"/> external consultant <input type="checkbox"/> other:	_____ last review	_____ next review

Item 3

Describe how your unit has used/is using the findings/recommendations from its last review to improve the effectiveness of the unit. Include references to goals or objectives listed in recent planning documents, and examples of the use of assessment to improve your programs/services.

Based on the recommendations of the Program Review Committee, the Department of Communication, Undergraduate Communication Studies Program (formerly Speech Communication) continues to focus on strong course offerings with theoretical and practical dimensions. The program remains student-centered, collegial and supportive. Advisement and job placement as well as instructional effectiveness are maintained.

Faculty have been encouraged to increase the level of professional achievement. Several faculty members have presented in regional and national conferences and a few faculty members have had their work published. The 3/3 work load will definitely help in increasing the level of professional achievement. Newly hired faculty are very strong on the research component. Tenure and promotion guidelines include a strong professional achievement component.

Since the review, one Ph.D. faculty member has been hired and two more are hired for Fall 2006.

A new curriculum has been developed and approved. This curriculum will be in effect in Fall 2006.

The speech course is still not in the core but the core curriculum evaluation committee has strongly recommended the inclusion of the speech course in the core. The University Curriculum committee is reviewing these recommendations even though the course is not in the core, several departments on campus require it for their students. The department offers an average of 20 basic speech courses every semester to meet the demand.

Most classes are now “smart classes” and thus students have more access to technology. In addition, two computer labs are housed in the Communication Arts and Sciences building which provides more technological access to students.

Student learning outcomes for all units have been implemented and graduating seniors are assessed every semester.

Systematic Program Review

Name of Unit: Journalism – Undergraduate Program

Reporting Official: Dr. Salma Ghanem, Chair

Item 1

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Item 3

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Based on the recommendations of the Program Review Committee, the Department of Communication, Undergraduate Journalism Program continues to revise curriculum based on the needs of the industry. Retention and graduation rates are excellent. Chair continues to conduct exit interviews with all graduating seniors.

The number of independent study courses have decreased and the number of sections offered per year have increased. This is a result of hiring additional faculty where we can ensure that the courses are rotated in a more timely fashion. Faculty hired are more specialized in their areas.

Specialized equipment for the television area has been purchased and two computer labs have been added to the Communication Arts and Sciences building allowing student access to specialized equipment and technology.

Degree plans have been revised and approved and will take effect in Fall 2006.

Enrollment in journalism is skyrocketing. Enrollment in the department has increased by 72% in the last five years.

Student learning outcomes for all units have been implemented and graduating seniors are assessed every semester.

Systematic Program Review

Name of Unit: Speech Communication – Graduate Program
Reporting Official: Dr. Salma Ghanem, Chair

Item 1

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Item 3

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Based on the recommendations of the Program Review Committee, the Department of Communication, Graduate Communication Studies Program (formerly Speech Communication) continues to focus on strong course offerings with theoretical and practical dimensions. Courses are scheduled in the evening to accommodate working students.

The curriculum has been expanded and the program name changed to Masters in Communication so students can have access to speech and/or mass media studies. New faculty have been hired who serve on the graduate faculty and two more will join the department in Fall 2006. The department will continue recruiting efforts to fill positions that were left vacant this academic year.

The graduate adviser in collaboration with the graduate faculty has completed a comprehensive guide for graduate students in the areas of communication. This handbook provides information on degree plans, comprehensive exams, thesis information, approved electives, deadlines and so on. As part of an orientation session for the students, the graduate faculty meet with all graduate students.

Faculty have been encouraged to increase the level of professional achievement several faculty members have presented in regional and national conferences and few faculty members have had their work published. The 3/3 work load will definitely help in increasing the level of professional achievement. Newly hired faculty are very strong on the research component. Tenure and promotion guidelines include a strong professional achievement component.

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