



Academic Program Review: June 1, 2004–May 31, 2005

Unit: Department of Physics and Geology

Part III Academic Program Review

Instructions:

Complete this section for the Program Review Committee recommendations not achieved prior to June 2004, as reported in Table I.C of previous annual assessment reports.

Undergraduate Program: Physics

Program Review Committee Recommendations (Numbering corresponds to original numbering in PRC Report)	Responses to Recommendations (Describe changes or improvements.)
3. Develop and implement a strong recruitment program for physics majors.	3. (a) A new departmental website has been created with several initiatives to attract physics majors; (b) An outreach plan which has as main objective recruitment of physics majors has been developed and will be implemented in the Fall 2005.
4. Develop, implement and evaluate regularly an orientation program for physics majors and minors that will complement the recruitment efforts of the Undergraduate Physics Program.	4. A rigorous advisement plan has been developed which involves orientation sessions for prospective physics majors and minors.
5. Develop and implement procedures for the periodic evaluation of the advisement process for physics majors and minors.	5. The advisement plan contemplates rotation of the main advisor every two years and evaluation of the advisement plan every semester.
6. Create a formal process for periodically evaluating the physics curriculum and documenting any changes to improve the curriculum.	6. An Assessment Plan for the BS in Physics has been developed. This plan integrates continuous evaluation of the Student Learning Outcomes using different methods (Pre- and Post test, capstone course projects, field experiences, classroom assessment, and course embedded). The results of the assessment plan are planned to be used to modify the physics curriculum as needed. Also, emerging trends in physics areas are continuously evaluated to create new courses (biophysics, material science, optic laser, exploration geophysics) and adapt them to the physics curriculum.
10. Systematically document the improvements in teaching effectiveness that has resulted from the evaluations of instruction in the Undergraduate Physics Program.	10. No formal evaluation of instruction by the interim chair or a departmental committee has been done in the Undergraduate Physics Program. Faculty Student Evaluations have been the main source of information to evaluate teaching effectiveness. It is planned to create a Teaching Effectiveness document to systematically track the improvements in this area.