



# *The Road to* **STATE'S REAFFIRMATION** 2015



## **Evaluation & Improvement of Teaching & Learning at WVSU**

As we learn more about the reaffirmation of accreditation each week in *The Road to State's Reaffirmation 2015*, we will examine how select elements of West Virginia State University (WVSU) campus life and culture interact with the Self-Study Report. It is essential that the University demonstrates responsibility for the quality of its educational programs, learning environments and support services, and it evaluates their effectiveness for student learning through processes designed to promote continuous improvement. As a result, let us briefly examine evaluation and improvement of teaching and learning at the University.

WVSU is committed to ensuring high-quality educational programs that prepare graduates to pursue additional educational training and/or to enter the workforce upon graduation. The University demonstrates responsibility for the quality of its educational programs and evaluation of student learning through the development and monitoring of policies and procedures designed to review the quality and utility of its academic programs on a continuous and defined cycle. To enhance those academic programs, the University offers courses and support services in environments that foster optimal learning to a diverse population of students.

WVSU has established policies and procedures that ensure the quality of its academic programs. These include an established order for departmental program review, a review and approval policy for undergraduate curricula, and external review of program curricula by program advisory committees. In addition, the General Education Faculty Senate standing committee reviews the General Education program. The authority to monitor, evaluate, and ensure the rigor and quality of the academic programs rests with the University's faculty in collaboration with the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, the Board of Governors and the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission. This intricately designed oversight process is previously described in section 3C of the Self-Study.

Faculty members at WVSU determine expectations for student learning through the General Education program, discipline-related academic programs, and interdisciplinary programs. Through the development of Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) and Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs), the institution conveys its expectations for student proficiency and mastery and defines the necessary skills and abilities its students should exhibit upon graduation.

WVSU employs a well-qualified cadre of faculty, both full-time and part-time, who are credentialed in the discipline areas for which they teach. The University ensures the quality of its faculty members through the recruitment process, student course evaluations, the evaluation of faculty for retention, and the tenure and promotion process. These multi-level processes are driven by faculty involvement and monitored by Academic Affairs. Specific evaluative mechanisms include classroom observations, review of instructional materials, annual self-reports and student evaluations.

WVSU is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Additionally, individual programs within WVSU have earned individual accreditation or certification by nationally-recognized organizations. The table below provides details about the degree programs at WVSU that have received specialized, external accreditation.

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## Specialized Accreditation by Program

Program	Agency	Accreditation/Certification Dates		
		Initial Accreditation/ Certification	Most Recent Review	Next Review
BS in Business Administration and BA in Economics	Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP)	2005	2005	2015 <sup>1</sup>
BS in Chemistry (Option A)	American Chemical Society	1972	2012	2017 <sup>2</sup>
BS in Education	National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE)/ Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)	1962	2007	2015 <sup>3</sup>
	West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE)	1969 <sup>4</sup>	2012	2017
BS in Social Work	Council on Social Work Education	1974	2001	2017

- 1 The Business Administration and Economics programs are currently in a self-study and will submit the information for accreditation to ACBSP in August 2015.
- 2 The BS in Chemistry, Option A, is ACS Certified. The ACS does not accredit programs; rather, it approves them. The program in the Department of Chemistry at WVSU is approved by the ACS. The department submits an annual report to the ACS and submits a periodic report, typically every five years.
- 3 The NCATE accreditation is currently in a self-study, and the site visit is scheduled in March 2015.
- 4 WVDE does not accredit programs, but approves programs through a process and generates a Curriculum Approval report.

WVSU has active and relevant policies and procedures in place to ensure the quality of its academic programs. These policies and procedures are enforced and monitored for course and curriculum development and academic program evaluation. The University takes the integrity of its educational programs seriously. Credentialing through recruitment, retention, tenure, and promotion of faculty is ensured through mechanisms that include oversight by faculty and administration. The ability of the University to acquire and maintain specialized accreditation and certification in its academic programs further demonstrates the quality of the academic programs at WVSU.

For more information about The Road to State's Reaffirmation 2015, please click [here](#) to discover in-depth information about the process, read the University's Self-Study Report, and more!

For questions or comments regarding the University's reaffirmation of accreditation process or the self-study report, please send all inquiries and information to [reaffirmation@wvstateu.edu](mailto:reaffirmation@wvstateu.edu) or call (304) 204-4300.