



The Road to — STATE'S REAFFIRMATION 2015



WVSU Provides High-Quality Education

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 provides high quality education, wherever and however its offerings are delivered. Therefore, let us briefly examine just a few of the ways in which West Virginia State University provides high quality education.

West Virginia State University is fully committed to its mission to meet higher education needs of the state and region and its vision to become “the most student-centered, research and teaching, land-grant University in the state of West Virginia and beyond.” WVSU’s undergraduate and graduate programs in all modes of delivery are appropriate and are regularly reviewed following a rigorous monitoring and approval process. The faculty-driven academic program development processes demonstrate the University’s achievement of maintaining strong curricula that are managed by an equally strong, student-focused faculty. The University also offers a multitude of student support services and co-curricular activities, which demonstrate that the University is driven to provide high quality education and teach its students lifelong learning skills both in and outside the classroom.

WVSU follows multiple rigorous review processes to ensure that all degree programs are appropriate for higher education. The University regularly reviews all programs and makes adjustments as necessary to accommodate the needs of the University community. Since obtaining university status in 2004, WVSU has expanded its program offerings, especially in graduate studies, and has plans to continue to do so as part of its strategy for the future, [Vision 2020: State's Roadmap to the Future](#). It also has learning goals in place at both the college level and the program level to help students focus on their learning.

Another means by which the University endeavors to keep its degree and certificate programs current and appropriate for students is through the use of external advisory committees. Five years ago, Academic Affairs encouraged all academic programs to establish external advisory committees. These committees are primarily composed of alumni, community members, and industry specialists who have an interest in the education of students in a particular major. These committees provide guidance and advice regarding prospective employment opportunities and skill preparation.



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When the committees were established, no specific guidelines were developed to evaluate the effectiveness and the role of the external advisory committees. This led to a wide variety of topics that were discussed during the meetings with departments and varying levels of recommendations for curricular development. In the survey that was conducted for the purpose of this self-study, department chairs and program coordinators responded that input from the program's external advisory committee is important to curricular planning and provides valuable input to the department.

The following programs have external advisory committees: art, biology, biotechnology graduate program, business administration, chemistry, communications, criminal justice, education, English, health sciences, international studies, law enforcement and administration graduate program, mathematics and computer science, media studies graduate program, physics, recreation and tourism, social work, and sport studies.

Several programs are in the process of creating their external advisory committees: economics, history, honors program, political science, and sociology.

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 or call (304) 204-4300.