



The Road to STATE'S REAFFIRMATION 2015



Undergraduate & Graduate Studies 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 provides, articulates, and differentiates learning goals for its undergraduate, graduate, post-baccalaureate, post-graduate, and certificate programs. As a result, let us briefly examine the difference between undergraduate and graduate studies at West Virginia State University.

WVSU offers 22 bachelor's degrees and four master's degrees in four colleges. These are broken down into nine Bachelor of Arts degrees, 13 Bachelor of Science degrees, two Master of Arts degrees, and two Master of Science degrees. Some University documents identify 21 undergraduate degree programs and three graduate programs. The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and the [WVSU Factbook](#) both acknowledge 22 undergraduate and 4 graduate degrees by counting the two B.S. degrees in education, one in elementary education and one in secondary education, and the M.A. and M.S. degrees in biotechnology as separate degree programs. In fact, the HLC has in its profile of the University a fifth graduate program, the Master of Education in Multicultural Instructional Leadership, which is currently undergoing restructuring.

WVSU has learning goals in place at both the college level and at the program level. Each of the four colleges displays their mission statements clearly both on their webpages and in the University catalog, and each department in the College of Professional Studies also has a mission statement in the catalog. Only a few of those departments, however, also have their mission statements on their webpages. The general education (GE) curriculum also has stated learning objectives displayed on its webpages.

As part of the University assessment initiative, all academic programs at the University have articulated program learning outcomes (PLOs). Four programs display their PLOs in the University catalog, and nine programs display their PLOs on their respective webpages. Although there is no institutional policy regarding the publishing of each department's mission and each program's learning outcomes, uniform posting of the PLOs on the department/program webpages and in the catalog description of the program would help to publicize that information to the student body. All syllabi are required to include student learning outcomes for individual courses. All courses differentiate their learning goals according to the level of the course.



The Road to STATE'S REAFFIRMATION 2015



In fall 2004, shortly before the previous self-study was published, WVSU began offering graduate degrees in Biotechnology and Media Studies. A third graduate program in Law Enforcement was introduced in fall 2011. Two additional graduate programs, Multicultural

Instructional Leadership and Public Administration, are currently in different stages of review. Since the graduate programs have begun to expand and mature since the previous self-study, a detailed discussion of the graduate programs is warranted for the current self-study.

With the anticipated growth of the number of graduate programs at WVSU, which aligns with the Vision 2020 goal to “develop at least one doctoral degree program” and “expand Master of Science (MS) and/or Master of Arts (MA) offerings at the University with at least one in STEAM by 2020” (p. 15), the University recognizes the need to develop and implement a centralized organizational structure to coordinate and monitor graduate education at the institution. In response to this need, Academic Affairs is working to enhance the current structure of graduate education through the development of a proposal that would centralize all associated functions of graduate education. This proposal would define the overall organizational structure of a unit to oversee graduate education and monitor graduate programs to ensure that WVSU graduates receive a high-quality post-baccalaureate education.

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.