

## 2014-15: Follow Up for Program Reviews

The purpose of the THEC academic program review process has always been to improve each program undergoing review through a systematic study of curriculum, faculty, resources, and other program components. Beginning with the 2014-15 academic year, the following additional steps are being implemented to provide specific improvement strategies based on the findings of the faculty, external reviewers, deans, and provost for each program that undergoes program review in a given year.

Since the THEC Program Review process, SACSCOC curriculum mapping and institutional effectiveness assessment, exit exam testing, strategic planning, and other planning and compliance activities are all connected to a continuous improvement process, it is important to use the data and information gathered through the program review peer-evaluation process to document and improve the academic program.

Once the Program Review self-study, checklist and narrative report have been completed, the department will develop a minimum of a 1-year implementation plan to address major areas in need of improvement identified in the review. This plan should target recommendations of reviewers, faculty, Provost and Dean. Improvement plans are due to OPEIR by the September following the Program Review date as a part of the annual institutional effectiveness reporting cycle and should set realistic departmental priorities and specific semester-by-semester dates by which these milestones should be accomplished.

The plan should be implemented during the academic year following the program review year, documented through the annual institutional effectiveness process. Progress on implementing the recommendations should continue to be documented so that the improvements can be included in subsequent program review years.

Implementation plans should include the following items:

- A list of recommendations from the self-study, and/or the external peer review report.
- A plan for how the department will address those recommendations. What the department will do and what resources are necessary to resolve any issues related to the recommendations.
- An implementation timeline for the outlined improvements.

