

Announcement

External Review of Department of Biology

The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) requires the review of academic programs to provide assurance to government, students, employees, and the public that degree programs offered by publicly funded institutions under provincial degree granting acts meet established standard of quality. The Department of Biology will undergo an external review in 2021/2022. The process consists of a Self Study in Fall 2021 and a Site Visit by the external reviewers in March 2022.

Objectives

Within the University's commitment to the principle of academic freedom, the review of academic programs supports the University's effort to:

- evaluate programs in the light of the University mission and Academic Plan
- evaluate programs according to the Integrity of their respective disciplines or professions
- assess the clarity and appropriateness of program goals and stated student outcomes
- provide an opportunity for a creative exchange between program faculty and peers drawn from other institutions
- assess the curricular and pedagogical policies and practices of a program
- evaluate and suggest improvements for the academic quality and administrative effectiveness and efficiency of a program
- evaluate the way the program supports student learning and achievement
- assist a program in planning for the future.

Roles of Participants

- The Chair is responsible for ensuring that all full-time faculty participate in the preparation of the Self Study, and that the process involves students (both current and graduates), part-time instructors, relevant administrative staff, and by external advisory committees, agencies, or community groups with links to the program.
- The Chair is also responsible for ensuring that the program's plan approved by CAPP for student involvement in the Self Study is implemented.

Timeline

- The Self Study will be carried out in the Fall term and the Chair will submit the completed Self Study report to the Dean in February 2022
- Site Visit by external reviewers: March, 2022.
- Students in the program will be invited to participate in an on-line survey in November 2021 and will be invited to meet with the Review Committee in March 2022.

Your participation as a faculty member, an instructor, or a student is essential for a successful review. It will be greatly appreciated!

