

NCA 2010 Reaccreditation Briefing Document November 2010



The Self-Study Process at the UA

- Co-chairs chosen late Spring 2008
- 5 Working Team chairs/co-chairs selected Fall 2008
- Working Teams collect information Spring and Fall 2009
- Working Teams provide draft chapters late Fall 2009
- Co-Chairs and Executive Team use draft chapters and collect more information to draft Self Study Spring and Summer 2010
- Extensive sharing of Self Study and results Fall 2010
- Site Visit 6-8 December 2010

Overall Findings of the Self-Study Process

- The UA is a student-centered research university with world-class faculty and accomplishments.
- The Student experience has improved over the last 10 years, although improvement areas remain.
- 4 improvement areas identified & task forces charged
 - Achieving Faculty Diversity
 - Planning and Budgeting for the Future
 - Assessment and Decision Support
 - Future and Furthering of Engagement

University of Arizona Seeks Feedback from Visiting Team in the Following Areas

- Improving student retention and graduation rates
- Assessing and recognizing community engagement
- Changing relationship of public universities with the state

Criterion 1: Mission and Integrity

- Key indicators of fulfillment of commitment to access, quality and discovery
 - Arizona Assurance
 - UA ADVANCE
 - Broad diversity initiatives
 - Arizona Telemedicine
 - Proactive approach to promoting integrity
- Challenges & Opportunities
 - Consistent communication of mission
 - Consistent communication and shared governance
 - Improving diversity of all forms and at all levels

Criterion 1: Mission and Integrity

- Bridging to the Future
 - **Communicate** its mission more clearly across many constituencies
 - **Continue to work to achieve increased diversity**, especially among faculty
 - **Create governance structures** throughout the university to promote and support even more effective decision-making
 - Enhance **communication of integrity** as a core value.

Criterion 2: Preparing for the Future

- Key indicators of fulfillment of criterion
 - Managing the ongoing reductions in state legislative financial support
 - Tuition and fee increases
 - Responsibility-centered management (RCM)
 - A plan for new distributed learning centers
 - Faculty retention
- Challenges & Opportunities
 - Managing changing budgetary composition
 - Maintaining financial access for Arizona students
 - Evaluating and assessing its institutional effectiveness
 - Effective strategic planning

Criterion 2: Preparing for the Future

- Bridging to the Future
 - Improved alignment of planning and budgeting at and across all levels
 - Rapid implementation of budget redesign and development of new or additional means of revenue generation
 - Investment in the UA academic workforce
 - Improved data infrastructure and sharing of information

Criterion 3: The Student Experience

- Key indicators of fulfillment of criterion
 - Four- and six-year graduation rates have increased dramatically over the last 15 years
 - UA is a student-centered research university
 - UA's 14 Graduate Interdisciplinary Programs
 - World-renowned UA School of Dance
 - UA's award-winning McGuire Entrepreneurship Program
- Challenges & Opportunities
 - Increasing student learning outcomes assessment
 - Changing demographics of the instructional workforce
 - Increasing retention and graduation rates for all, but especially for some underrepresented groups
 - Increasing affordable access to higher education

Criterion 3: The Student Experience

- Bridging to the Future
 - Improve the diversity of teaching faculty
 - Use assessment to assure quality learning experiences
 - Commit resources to keep classroom technology current
 - Support the Honors College to ensure the success of a diverse honors student body
 - Support programs for the classroom and beyond that improve the retention and graduation rates of a diverse student body

Criterion 4: Discovery

- Key indicators of fulfillment of criterion
 - Phoenix Mars Mission confirms water ice on Mars
 - iPlant Collaborative addresses “grand challenges”
 - Dept. of Communication’s Media Program addresses such topics as the effects of television violence on society
 - Harp Fusion is world’s largest touring concert harp ensemble
 - Second Language Acquisition and Teaching Program
- Challenges & Opportunities
 - Increasing research funding and infrastructure support
 - Increasing interdisciplinary opportunities for students
 - Expanding translational research

Criterion 4: Discovery

- Bridging to the Future
 - Focus on a Strategic Plan that is realistic and specific enough to guide decision making and budgeting
 - Invest in faculty creativity, building upon current strengths and translation of discoveries to improve the human condition
 - Generate new resources for creativity and discovery with a focus on the long-term goal of increasing the endowment
 - Better capture and communicate accomplishments outside of traditional measures of grant dollars to value a broader spectrum of research

Criterion 5: Engagement and Service

- Key indicators of fulfillment of criterion
 - BIO5 Institute
 - Center of Excellence in Women's Health
 - Arizona State Museum
 - The Norton School of Family and Consumer Sciences
 - The UA Poetry Center
 - Partnership with Pima County designed to ensure the sustainability of the county's hospital
- Challenges and Opportunities
 - Development and sustaining of long-term partnerships
 - Evaluation of quality & impact of engagement activities

Criterion 5: Engagement and Service

- Bridging to the Future
 - Develop ways to capture, assess and communicate existing engagement and achievements
 - Communicate and foster greater involvement with the local business community and other local sectors
 - Create a strong culture of engagement throughout the institution and communicate its programs to both internal and external constituencies
 - Reward faculty involvement
 - Promote curricular and program innovation

Preparing for the 6-8 December 2010 Site Visit

- Inform yourself about the Self Study findings:
 - Read all/parts of the Self Study at www://nca2010.arizona.edu
 - Attend/Participate in public meetings
 - November 15 in Gallagher Theater at noon
 - November 17 in Tucson Room at 6:30pm
- Attend Site Visit Team public forums as appropriate
- Attend meetings with the Site Visit Team if invited