

Bachelor of Integrated Studies Site Visit

January 31, 2017

External Review Report Submitted by: Dave Noack, Director of WSU Entrepreneurship Center, Allyson Saunders, Assistant Dean of College of EAST, Marianne McKnight, Associate Dean of History, Anthropology and Political Science at Salt Lake Community College.

The review team visited the Bachelor of Integrated Studies program at WSU on Tuesday, January 31, from 9:30 am until 4.30 pm. The team met with Associate Provost Brenda Kowalewski, advisors at Services for Students with Disabilities and the Student Success Center, Pat Wheeler in the Goddard Business School, students currently in the BIS program, and a group of faculty from across campus who regularly serve on BIS committees.

1. Introduction

The Bachelor of Integrated Studies (BIS) is an interdisciplinary degree that allows students to select three areas or emphases and work out a contract of courses with the departments of their choice. A final capstone project is required, which brings together the three areas of emphasis. The BIS Program serves the needs of students who want to individualize or create a unique academic program, students who want to obtain a broad education, and students who want to prepare for specific career goals and/or graduate school.

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recommendations for improvement.

2. Program strengths

The review committee observed and noted several strengths related to the BIS program and its leadership team. As such, the committee notes the following:

- a. The BIS program has tremendous value and support at all different levels at Weber State (Standard A: Mission).
- b. (Standard G: Relationships with External Communities).
- c. Colleagues interviewed felt there was a strong sense of mission and good chemistry between all interested parties faculty, staff, advisors, and students (Standard A: Mission).

- d. The team noted excellent participation with colleagues representing entrepreneurship, student services, and career services as examples of BIS diverse stakeholders (Standard G: Relationships with External Communities).
- e. The team noted meaningful benchmark levels at 80% threshold for BIS Capstone Rubric indicators, and how the Department made informed responses and interventions for times when the 80% threshold was not met (Standard C: Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment).
- f. Data has been successfully and consistently used for program improvement (Standard H: Results of Previous Program Reviews).

- to build peer support groups (Standard C: Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment).
- c. Faculty across campus receive little recognition from their college/department toward tenure and promotion, creating a bottleneck for the few faculty consistently willing to engage in BIS student projects and committees (Standard E: Faculty and Standard F: Program Support).

4. Areas where the program did not meet the Standards and why