

INDIANA UNIVERSITY SOUTH BEND
EXTERNAL PROGRAM/ACCREDITATION REVIEW
SUMMARY

Unit/Program: Master of Public Affairs

Reviewer: National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration

Year of Site Visit: 2006

Unit/Program Strengths Cited by Reviewer:

1. Curriculum is consistent with our mission statement.
2. Governance of the school is clear.
3. A new concentration, Nonprofit Administration and Policy, has been added.
4. The common core courses are taught at least once a year; the courses required for a concentration are taught on an 18 to 24 month cycle.

Reviewers' Recommendations for Continued Unit/Program Improvement:

To improve communications among faculty the SVT recommends that

1. Senior faculty members meet with junior faculty to address concerns about promotion and tenure. Possible actions include finding a way to expand the 2006-07 promotion and tenure committee beyond its current two members and developing a policy that is more clearly focused on the expectations at IUSB.
2. Public Administration faculty meet separately to assure that all Public Administration faculty members are aware of and involved in programmatic decisions. The SVT concern is that without separate meeting undergraduate concerns may reduce attention to MPA program issues.
3. A faculty or staff members take minutes of faculty meetings and distributed them to faculty
4. The program leadership work to integrate new faculty effectively into the university. Junior faculty members seem to be unaware of available resources, have developed few collaborative relationships, and feel isolated. The University Center for Excellence in Teaching and senior faculty connections in the university, community and system may help breakdown the isolation.
5. A faculty member or administrator from outside the department might be asked to meet with junior faculty to identify issues and generate possible solutions. The

presence of a non-SPEA faculty member may generate a more candid discussion of issues

6. The faculty as a whole explore ways to enable faculty to reduce the number of course preparations in a year

To improve communications between faculty and students the SVT recommends that

1. The program offer orientations to both new and returning students to introduce the faculty, program requirements, opportunities for electives in other departments, university resources (including career placements). Orientation may be used to develop alumni-student links and to encourage student engagement in communicating their ideas to the faculty.
2. Students develop plans of work soon after they are admitted; this will assure that they get to take needed concentration courses at the appropriate time and to take advantage of electives offered by other departments.
3. The Graduate Student Advisory Committee should develop effective strategies to solicit student feedback and ideas.
4. The program regularly monitor student progress and contact students with academic difficulties informing them of what they need to do to assure that they will graduate
5. The faculty work with students, alumni, and Career Services to identify internships and similar opportunities to give students planning on changing careers hands-on-experience

To add to existing knowledge of the community and community contacts the SVT recommends that the program develop an alumni association.

**Accreditation Review Only—Length of Continued Accreditation
Granted: The above comments are from the Site Visit Team. We will
advise when a decision is made. Continued accreditation will be for
seven (7) years.**

