

CPR Report Submitted!

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5 **Institution:** Columbus State University
6 **Review Status:** Non-triggered Review
7 **Degree level:** Bachelors
8 **Degree acronym:** BS
9 **Degree/Major:** BS in Health Science
10 **CIP Code:** 51139900
11 **College,**
 School/Division: College of Science
12 **Department:** Department of Environmental Science and Health Sciences
13 **CPR Plan**
 followed: Yes
14 **Future institutional**
 plans for program: Expand and enhance
15 **Plan for resources**
 in this program: Add
16 **Supplemental file:** HS Findings&Plans.doc
17 **File Type:** MS Word
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CPR Findings and Plans for the Bachelor of Science in Health Science at Columbus State University

June 24, 2004

1. Major Findings of the Program's Quality, Productivity, and Viability

The Comprehensive Program Review Committee reviewed documentation concerning the courses and programs related to the BS in Health Science program at Columbus State University. The Committee noted the clarity of the self-study report prepared by the Department of Environmental and Health Sciences, the insightfulness and honesty of the report prepared by the External Review Team, and the careful response of the department chair to the External Review Team's Report. The committee concluded that the overall quality and productivity of the program are good, and made recommendations (below) where appropriate to increase the viability of the program.

1a. Quality

The goals and objectives for the BS in Health Science program have changed over time. As a result, some majors report they are unsure of their own goals and objectives within the discipline. The faculty are making every effort to assure students that health science is viable program and a worthy career goal. In general, the review team found strong faculty commitment to excellence in teaching, professional development of both students and faculty and service to the department, university, institution, and community. The primary functions of the faculty are clearly stated. The one-on-one interaction is highly praised. The opportunities for student-faculty interaction are many and varied, and technological skills (e-mail, Harvard Risk Assessment, Internet, Health-Related Web site databases, Power Point) are incorporated into the program of study. In addition, a major role of the program is supporting the general education curriculum, Health and Physical Education, Exercise Science, and offering courses as prerequisites for the cooperative program in Occupational Therapy between Columbus State University and the Medical College of Georgia. There is evidence that diversity, multiculturalism and international perspectives are included in the curriculum. Although the average total SAT score of 893 for Fall 2003 is significantly below the CSU average of 979, the average GPA of 2.75 is the same (See Table 1: Quantitative Measures). More than 150 graduates expressed their complete satisfaction with the program according to a recent survey. Strengths of the program mentioned in the responses included the dedication of the faculty members who were praised for their role as a resource into many health profession fields. Suggestions to enhance the program included: 1) requiring basic business courses (e.g., accounting or management) and 2) offering more courses via the Internet. The teaching staff consists of two tenure-track faculty, both working on doctoral degrees in addition to teaching full time loads, and two part-time faculty. The review team stated that the faculty make good use of the space provided. The equipment is current and instructors have access to limited software. The lack of research and scholarship, however, needs to be addressed. Also, more students need to be encouraged to utilize the internship-preceptor approach in research.

1b. Productivity and Viability

By preparing graduates to gain the knowledge and experience that will enable them to fill the role of the health professional, the mission of the program is clearly related to and supportive of the mission of the university. The expected outcomes are appropriate and necessary to accomplish the mission of the program. The External Review Team expressed concern, however, that the expected outcomes appear to be in conflict with each other and recommended further examination. Courses are offered on a regular basis and are serving the needs of the students, although some sections have had relatively large enrollments. The number of majors has been holding steady over the past four years with 109 students enrolled Fall 2003 (see Table 1: Quantitative Measures). Over the same time period, the percentage of students under 25 years of age ranged from 60 to 70 percent, female majors averaged 84 percent, and minority students comprised almost 50 percent of the total program enrollment. The number of degree completions has been consistent with an average of 19 per year. The number of credit hours generated at all levels has increased from 691 in Fall 2000 to 861 in Fall 2003, an increase of 25 percent. The External Review Team noted that the department has the same number of part-time and full-time faculty and expressed concern for the long-term impact on workloads and the overall vitality of the program. Considering the teaching loads and the level of professional involvement of the faculty, the amount of faculty time spent in service to CSU is significant. The department strikes an excellent balance between meeting university-wide needs and the need for a strong health science program. The record of research activity and professional involvement of the faculty is remarkable considering the heavy teaching loads. The review term suggested that incorporating a research experience earlier in the curriculum would enhance the future viability of the program. The current viability of the program is demonstrated by the continued demand for graduates employed in a variety of fields including juvenile court services, health departments, hospitals, insurance firms, and school districts.

2. Plans for Improving the Program's Quality, Productivity, and Viability

The CPR Committee shares the department's concern for the future direction of the program and endorses the External Review Team's recommendation for the retention and enhancement of the program by adding a concentration in community health in order to be more responsive to the needs of the public, thus enhancing the viability of the program. To offer this concentration and a greater variety of upper division courses will require at least two new full-time faculty. To help address inconsistencies in the curriculum, a statistical analysis software program (SPSS) to be utilized in upper division courses has been purchased. Assessment of graduates will be improved by utilizing an appropriate exit exam such as the NCHEC or a variation of the CHES exam. In addition, the number of internship programs with local agencies will be increased. The following plans have medium to high priority for the department and are dependent on the employment of new faculty and improved facilities: increasing grant opportunities for undergraduate research, incorporating research experience earlier in the curriculum, and increasing the number of presentations at professional meetings. The continuation of the program is in the best interest of the university, as well as the health service profession. The Three Rivers Area Health Education Center estimates that there is a shortfall of some 14,000 jobs in the health sciences (non-medical) in the state of Georgia, alone. Certainly, there is a market for graduates of the program.

3. New Resource Allocations for Improvement

The External Review Team's endorsement of the program is constrained by the Comprehensive Program Review Committee's concern that the resources provided to the department do not appear to be adequate for its mission and that the mission of the program is not clear to its stakeholders. Specifically, the committee believes that staffing levels are less than that required to offer a quality, creditable program. The CSU administration concurs with this assessment and will find one additional faculty position from anticipated retirements and will provide another as soon as possible. The department is being reorganized and will receive its mission in the coming year.

4. Plans for Increasing Program Productivity Above Threshold

Not applicable. The System Office did not trigger the BS in Health Science program for review.

Table 1: Quantitative Measures – BS in Health Science

Measure	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004
Number of Declared Majors - Fall Semester	102	92	102	109
Number of Degrees Conferred - Fiscal Year	18	16	20	21
Credit Hour Production - Fall Semester	691	798	989	861
Average Course Enrollment - Fall Semester	15.3	20.3	29.2	31.9
Number of Faculty by EFT - Fall Semester	3.1	5.91	5.91	5.91
Program-Specific Scholarship Funds Awarded	\$0	\$0	\$1,500	\$0
Averages for Declared Majors - Fall Semester				
Average SAT Verbal Score	466, n=69	478, n=61	471, n=61	457, n=61
Average SAT Math Score	442, n=69	453, n=61	445, n=61	436, n=61
Average Undergraduate GPA	2.70, n=102	2.60, n=91	2.76, n=102	2.75, n=109
Gender				
Female	86	77	88	89
Male	16	15	14	20
Total	102	92	102	109
Race				
International Students	1	0	1	1
Asian	2	1	1	2
Black	42	36	45	51
Hispanic	2	3	2	3
American Indian	0	0	0	0
Multi-Racial	3	5	3	4
White	52	47	50	48
Total	102	92	102	109
Age				
25 and Under	63	62	61	76
Over 25	39	29	41	33
Total	102	92	102	109
Average	27.4	26.0	26.6	25.9