

INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS: Planning, Policies & Procedures, Assessment, Accreditation, and Reporting

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OVERVIEW

Institutional Effectiveness fosters continuous improvement at Texas State University by providing leadership, guidance and support for planning, assessment, analysis, and reporting processes that contribute to the achievement of university goals. The office does this through facilitating academic and administrative unit efforts as well as coordinating university-wide initiatives that support faculty, staff, and administrators in ensuring student success and university excellence. Institutional Effectiveness also supports the reporting and data analysis needs of the Texas State University System office.

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Offices include:

Institutional Research | <https://www.ir.txstate.edu/>

University Planning and Assessment | <https://www.upa.txstate.edu/>

PLANNING

Texas State University, and its leadership decision-making, is guided by an intentional six-year strategic planning process, along with a formal mid-cycle review, that ensures a continued and focused direction. Crucial to the effective implementation of the University Plan is the interconnectedness between department, school, college, unit, and division plans and the larger University Plan. This top-down, bottom-up planning model calls for prioritization at all university levels, with ongoing conversations and feedback between academic departments, schools and colleges, administrative units, and deans/directors and vice presidents. These inclusive discussions ensure that Texas State practices under a “living” plan philosophy, where the best information and insight are available for the President’s Cabinet to make informed decisions about new initiatives and budget allocations. Annual University Plan progress assessments within all areas of the institution reinforce the continued progression towards goal and initiative completion. University Planning and Assessment oversees the university, division, and college level planning processes.

The Texas State University 2017-2023 University Plan and annual progress reports | <https://universityplan2023.avpie.txstate.edu/>.

College planning priorities | <https://www.upa.txstate.edu/Planning-Priorities-/2017-2023-Mid-Cycle-Review-Planning-Priorities---Colleges-.html>

Important dates | <https://www.upa.txstate.edu/University-Planning/important-dates.html>

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Texas State’s policy and procedures statement system provides a means for publishing principles and guidelines adopted to direct actions toward the greater good and help the university reach its goals within the confines of applicable regulations and laws. Policy and procedures statements are developed at various levels ranging from The Texas State University System, to the University, to the Divisions, to the Colleges and Administrative Units, and to Departments/Schools and Administrative Offices. Higher-order policies always prevail and guide the development of lower-order policies. University and division policies and procedures are approved through a formal development process guided by University Planning and Assessment.

Policies and Procedure Statements | <https://policies.txstate.edu/>

ASSESSMENTS

OUTCOMES

Texas State University is committed to the continuous improvement of units, programs, and actions through the identification and assessment of outcomes as well as through thoughtful reflection on the attainment of desired outcomes. Academic departments/schools bear the responsibility of identifying methods for assessing the achievement of educational program and general education student learning outcomes. Each year academic units report outcomes, results of assessment, action plans, and evidence of improvement due to actions informed by prior assessment findings. Educational programs also address the attainment of administrative outcomes. University Planning and Assessment assists units with outcomes assessment and works with Assistant/Associate Deans and representatives of the General Education Council to audit/review outcomes reports.

Outcomes Assessment | <https://ia.txstate.edu/student-outcomes.html>

PROGRAM REVIEW

Academic Program Review (APR) is primarily intended to maintain and strengthen the quality of academic programs through the regular audit of the quality, rigor, and productivity of existing degree programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels and development of strategies for ongoing improvement. The Academic Program Review, conducted on a ten-year cycle, is intended to be helpful and supportive in recognizing strengths and achievements, identifying areas in need of attention, and promoting goal setting and planning. Reviews should provide perspectives useful to the academic unit whose programs are under review and to their respective college dean. Reviews should also give those outside the academic unit an informed overview of the strengths, challenges, and needs of the academic unit. When completed, Academic Program Reviews of graduate programs also fulfill the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s (THECB) requirements for Periodic Review of Graduate Programs (Section 5.52). The Associate Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness oversees the program review process.

Academic Program Review | <https://www.avpie.txstate.edu/academic-program-review.html>

ACCREDITATION

INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION

Texas State University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award baccalaureate, masters, and doctoral degrees. SACSCOC accreditation is institutional in nature. Accreditation is a process that involves a collective analysis and judgment by the institution’s internal constituencies, an informed review by peers external to the institution, and a reasoned decision by the elected members of the SACSCOC Board of Trustees. Reaffirmation of accreditation is the process for ensuring that member institutions maintain continuing compliance with Commission policies and with the Principles of Accreditation. The institution must be reaffirmed every ten years. Institutional Effectiveness provides leadership in the maintenance of institutional accreditation.

SACSCOC Accreditation | <https://www.avpie.txstate.edu/SACSCOC-accreditation.html>

PROGRAMMATIC ACCREDITATION

Many academic and service units hold programmatic accreditation or certification from specialized or professional agencies, especially those recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) or the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). The university supports the many and varied accreditation and/or certification processes that apply to its academic units or specialized service providers who are seeking to gain or maintain recognition from specialized or professional agencies. This support is focused through the associate vice president of Institutional Effectiveness. All accreditation is valued by Texas State not only as evidence of integrity and quality but also as a stimulus to improvement in academic program delivery, student learning, service delivery, and overall achievement.

Programmatic Accreditation | <https://www.avpie.txstate.edu/program-accreditations.html>

DATA ANALYSIS AND REPORTING

Institutional Research serves Texas State University and The Texas State University System by providing official data and analysis for informed decisions making and submits certified data to outside agencies as required. Data are compiled and published in interactive tables and detailed investigative reports on the Institutional Research website. Typical reports include topics such as general demographics, enrollment, admissions, retention/persistence/graduation rates, degrees awarded, grades, student to faculty ratios, and class size. Institutional Research also conducts peer comparison studies and routinely conducts administrative surveys to collect information used in planning and decision-making and to identify opportunities for improvements to programs and services. Two primary roles of Institutional Research are to support data governance at Texas State and promote the integrity of university data and reports.

Institutional Research | <https://www.ir.txstate.edu/>