

ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEW (APR)

Building a University-Wide Framework for Continuous Improvement

Why Academic Program Review?

Florida State University is launching a university-wide Academic Program Review (APR) process designed to strengthen academic quality through a consistent, evidence-informed process of continuous improvement. APR establishes a shared approach for evaluating programs, supporting strategic decision-making, and fostering meaningful conversations about program effectiveness across the institution.

This framework also fulfills the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) expectation that:

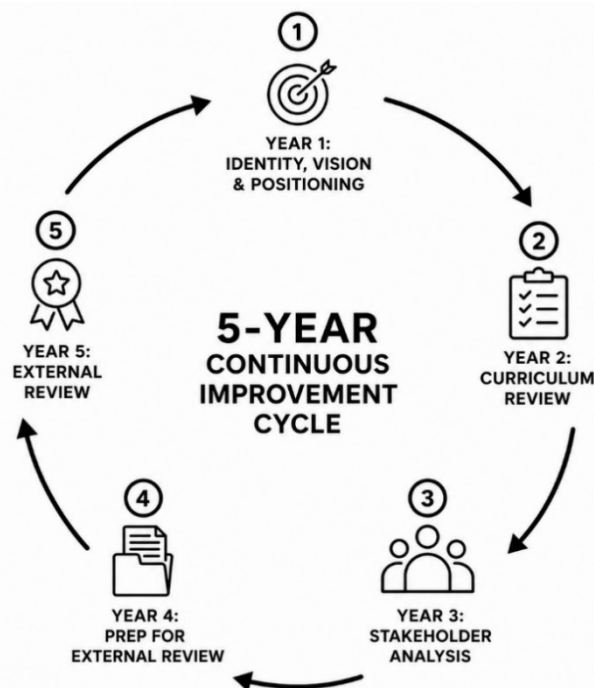
“The institution improves its curriculum based on periodic program review.”

HLC Criterion 3.F—Program Review

What is APR?

Rather than completing a large-scale comprehensive review only once every several years, APR distributes the work into manageable milestones over a five-year cycle that build toward long-term program excellence.

The Five-Year Continuous Improvement Cycle:



- **YEAR 1:** Identity, Vision, & Positioning. Evaluate current alignment with national disciplinary trends and university priorities.
- **YEAR 2:** Curriculum Review. Review alignment between curricular structure, SLOs, and published materials.
- **YEAR 3:** Stakeholder Analysis. Evaluate perceptions of unit’s reputation and effectiveness as seen by stakeholders.
- **YEAR 4:** Prep for External Review. Gather documentation and evidence to prepare for review process.
- **YEAR 5:** External Review. Formal external evaluation to validate quality of programs.

What to Expect

- A consistent, university-wide review framework
- Annual activities that are manageable and build upon one another
- Cohort model with shotgun (staggered) starts
- Standardized templates, guidance, and support resources for each phase of the cycle
- Data-informed decision making that aligns with institutional priorities and utilizes institutional data sets
- Incorporation of existing practices as much as possible, including programmatic accreditation
- A continuous improvement process rather than a one-time reporting exercise

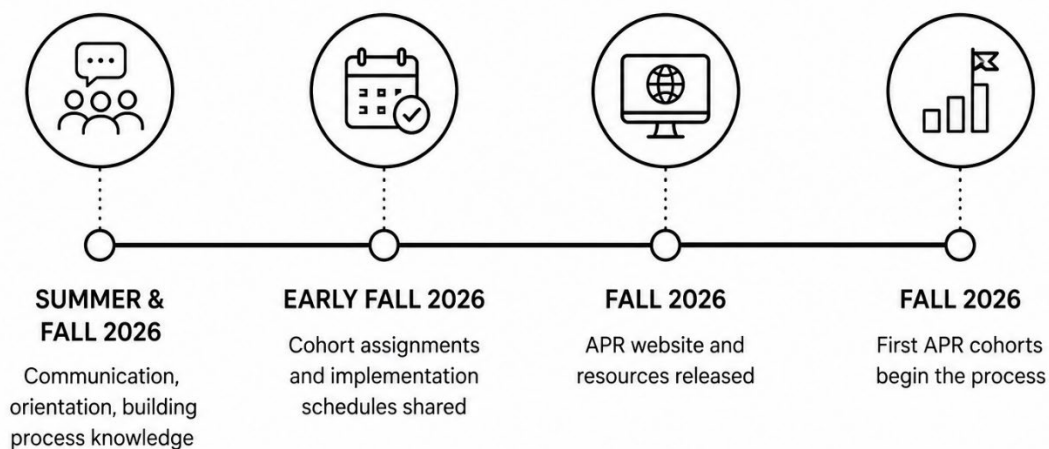
Resources and Support

The Provost's Office will provide centralized support through implementation, including:

- APR Handbook and guidance materials
- Annual expectations and timelines
- Templates and reporting tools
- Survey development and administrative support
- Consultation and technical assistance
- Training and orientation sessions
- APR website and resource repository

What's Next?

APR Implementation Timeline



Cycle Activities & Deliverables

Cycle Year	Purpose	Activities/Deliverables	Implementation
Y1: Identity, Vision, & Positioning	Evaluate current alignment with national disciplinary trends and university priorities	TBD	2027-2028
Y2: Curriculum Review	Review alignment between curricular structure, SLOs, and published materials	Curriculum Action Plan, Evidence, Executive Summary	2026-2027
Y3: Stakeholder Analysis	Evaluate perceptions of unit's reputation and effectiveness as seen by stakeholders (students, faculty, staff, alumni, etc.)	Data Reports & Unit Reflections	2026-2027
Y4: Prepare for External Review	Gather documentation and evidence, including activities in Years 1-3, to prepare for the review process	Self-Study Report	2027-2028 (abbreviated Desk Review version initially)
Y5: External Review	Formal external evaluation to validate quality of programs	Hosting Logistics + External Report of Findings Post-Review	2028-2029
Annual Program and Student Data Review	Annual review of key institution program and student data	TBD	2027