

Quality Enhancement Review: The Role and Qualifications of the External Reviewer

Role:

The role of the external reviewer is to review and analyze the self-study as well as conduct interviews during the site visit in order to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the degree program(s) and identify strategies for quality improvement. The reviewer is asked to consider national trends in the discipline in determining how the program fares in comparison. The external reviewer synthesizes findings into a final report that forms the basis for later stages of the QER process.

Qualifications:

External reviewers should have national and/or international standing in their respective academic discipline. They should also have broad enough experience in higher education to understand the dynamics of public research-extensive universities and should represent high-quality degree programs. In addition, external reviewers should be independent of the University in order to ensure the objectivity of the report and the credibility of the process. Ideally, reviewers will be senior faculty from a public Association of American Universities (AAU) institution and have significant administrative, curricular, and program-review experience.

When submitting candidates to be considered for external reviewers, the unit chair should disclose all known affiliations between the proposed reviewer, Florida State University, and any of the unit faculty (i.e., nature of the relationship, any potential conflicts of interest). It is expected that individuals within the same academic discipline will know one another and may have possibly worked together; nonetheless, the unit chair must disclose this information at the time of the submission of names for consideration.