

**Survey of Graduate Directors/Coordinators
Current/Planned Use of External Reviewers by Graduate Programs
California State University, Stanislaus**

This survey of graduate directors/coordinators was conducted in March 2009 as a result of the Graduate Council's discussion about the desirability of either requiring or encouraging the use of external reviewers for graduate programs as one method for evaluating the quality of the graduate programs. Currently, the Academic Program Review procedures encourage, but do not require, the use of external reviewers.

Executive Summary

Overall, this survey illustrates that all accredited graduate programs at CSU Stanislaus in the past employed an external review process; only one program not subject to accreditation reported past use of external reviewers. For those programs not subject to accreditation, most respondents reported that they are currently considering use of external reviewers as part of their next academic program review.

Response Rates

The overall response rate was 22 of 28 (79%) representing graduate programs, including those with multiple degrees and concentrations:

- 17 of the 28 graduate programs (61%) are subject to external review as part of an accreditation process.
- 11 of the 28 graduate programs (39%) are not subject to accreditation: 5 responded (18%); 6 did not respond (21%).

Past Use of External Reviewers

- 17 programs (77%) employed external reviewers as part of a disciplinary/professional accreditation process.
- One program (5%) for which accreditation is not available used external reviewers in the past three years via focus groups with external constituencies.
- Four programs (18%) did not use external reviewers in the past three years.

Future Use of External Reviewers

- 17 programs (77%) will continue to employ external reviewers as part of a disciplinary/professional accreditation process.
- One program (5%) for which accreditation is not available plans to use external reviewers in the future coincident with the academic program review process as well as part of its assessment plan.
- Four programs (18%) for which accreditation is not available are considering the possibility of using external reviewers in the future either with the next academic program review or as part of assessment initiatives (with funding provided by the Office of Assessment and Quality Assurance).