

Graduate Program Review Summary – Exercise and Sport Sciences

Background: This was a combined review of the graduate and undergraduate programs. There were originally three external reviewers: Michael Delp, University of Florida; Diane Gill, University of North Carolina – Greensboro; and Bob McMurray, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill. Michael Delp volunteered to coordinate the Graduate Program Review and Bob McMurray coordinated the undergraduate program review.

Michael Delp basically opted out of his responsibility, so Jim Coakley (OSU Grad Council Rep) became the defacto coordinator for the Graduate Program Review. Thus, this review is very late (over one year after the visit) and is based on notes from the review taken by Coakley, McMurray and Gill. We received no input from Michael Delp.

We apologize that the review tends to focus on constructive criticisms versus outlining many of the positive aspects of the EXSS graduate program. Michael Delp was also the primary person for evaluating the strength of the graduate curriculum.

Conclusions:

The review committee concluded the graduate program in EXSS should be **maintained**. The following recommendations are intended to strengthen the EXSS program and should be followed up with a response on how the program is going to address the issues raised:

- a. Develop a recruiting effort that targets diverse populations interested in EXSS. This may be done in conjunction with related programs (e.g., Nutrition, Public Health). One idea used successfully in other programs is a “recruitment weekend,” that brings together a group of excellent candidates to learn more about the opportunities available at OSU. Resources at OSU can help identify low-income, first generation, and other non-representative student populations.
- b. Related to recommendation a, increase efforts to broaden the applicant pool to non-resident and international student populations. The program should also follow-up with admitted students who declined to attend and develop strategies to retain the highly qualified applicants.
- c. Expand the Graduate Student Handbook to include sample coursework for each program track.
- d. Consider using broader themes to consolidate the six current specializations into a smaller set that promotes collaboration in research and course offerings.
- e. Provide professional development regarding mentoring relationships for both faculty and students.
- f. Develop strategies to improve receipt of external grants, including grant writing workshops, mentoring, and guidelines for release time to pursue and administer grants.
- g. The OSU Graduate School is in the process of offering a teaching certificate. Consider adding this teaching certificate to both M.S. and Ph.D. degree programs.