



INSPIRE: INstitutional Success through Program Innovation, Redesign, and Evolution

FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions

Who is going to serve on the INSPIRE review committee? What will they look at?

The INSPIRE review process will involve a university-wide committee, co-chaired by an IUP administrator and an APSCUF member. Other members will mostly be faculty, drawn equally from all colleges. The committee will examine a data set drawn from university metrics on admissions, retention, graduation rates, etc. that will be openly available through I-Reports and comparable for all programs. The committee will also consider program response documents that briefly convey the program's recommendation for the best immediate action to take to reverse recent negative trends, or to implement a critical innovation or redesign that could allow a program to succeed and flourish.

How will the programs know which phase of INSPIRE review they will be asked to participate in?

Earlier this month, a small ad hoc committee composed of four faculty and three administrators identified the **most urgent programs** for review in Phase One (Fall 2019). These programs have been notified and asked to prepare response documents. At the same time, college Deans will work with their department chairs and program directors to create an inventory of all remaining college programs and determine which ones are **high-priority programs** that should be considered in Phase Two (Spring 2020). All other programs will participate in the INSPIRE review during Phase Three (Fall 2020). No program will be left out.

How is the INSPIRE review going to be different from regular five-year program review?

The INSPIRE review will cover all IUP educational programs, including those that do not undergo PASSHE five-year review such as certificates and minors. Programs will be asked to submit a short (1-4 page) proposal for immediate action to meet the current challenge. In contrast, five-year program reviews at IUP are done only by non-accredited degree programs and involve the creation of substantial self-study documents and detailed five-year action plans. These reviews will continue to be done at IUP in order to meet our Middle States accreditation standards. Their results and recommendations can and should be used to inform the short program response submitted to the INSPIRE review process.

What kind of program response is INSPIRE looking for?

The INSPIRE committee needs a response that briefly describes what feasible and immediate actions would solve the problems that the program in question is facing. If no immediate action is deemed to be possible (either by the program, the college Dean, the INSPIRE committee or the Provost), then the program will be placed in a short-term closure to new admissions, or **moratorium**. Being placed in moratorium gives an unsustainable program breathing space (ranging in length from one semester to five years) to craft a new and more productive direction and propose it through regular curricular action.

How can we become more innovative and successful when PASSHE won't allow any new programs?

This is challenging, but we believe that with the force of a university-wide INSPIRE recommendation behind it, a substantial re-design of programs will be permitted by PASSHE. We may need to ask our University Senate Curriculum Committees for their cooperation in reviewing and approving any critical curriculum changes recommended by INSPIRE to create a coordinated package which our administration can then advocate for with PASSHE leadership after each phase of the review process.