



Modified Self-Study Template for Externally Accredited Programs

Revised 7/23/26

Purpose: This document provides a modified pathway for programs with external accreditation to fulfill PLNU's program review requirements.

Goal: While your accreditation provides evidence that you meet the accreditation standards, accreditation reports don't usually provide an opportunity to reflect on program weaknesses. When you're constantly proving you meet a baseline (as accreditation reports tend to do), it's easy to lose sight of actual innovation. The goal of this modified PLNU program review self-study template is to provide an opportunity for program faculty to identify opportunities for improvement.

To avoid administrative duplication, programs may reference specific page numbers from their recent accreditation reports for descriptive data. However, please provide a comprehensive narrative for university-specific values and areas involving critical reflection on programmatic weaknesses and future growth. The expectation is that the responses to these questions will be about 5 to 7 pages. Please also provide a link to the accreditation report (for page number references for PARC to read about your program).

I. Introduction and Context

Department	
Dean & Assoc/Asst Deans	
Self-Study Team Members	
Submission Date	
List of Programs for this review	
Link to Accreditation Report(s)	

- A. **Program Overview and History:** Provide a brief summary of the academic programs included in this self-study. You may directly reference your accreditation report for the historical development of the program(s) and context of the department within the university (e.g., "See pages 12–22 of the accreditation report").

Please type responses in the boxes. They will grow to accommodate your responses.

- B. **Alignment with University Mission (Full Narrative Required):** Explain how your program(s) align with the university's mission. Include a discussion of where these efforts can be strengthened.

- C. **Belonging and Community:** List the accreditation report pages that detail the department's efforts to foster a sense of belonging and community for faculty, staff, and students (e.g., "See pages 40–48"). Include a discussion of where these efforts can be strengthened.

- D. **Overview of Special Issues:** Use this section to highlight unique issues, concerns, or programmatic weaknesses that will be the focal point of this self-study.

II. Faculty Resources & Vitality:

- A. Where in the accreditation report can PARC read about program faculty? List the accreditation report pages for the listing of full-time and part-time faculty and the analysis of their teaching loads (e.g., "See pages 21–26")

- B. What are the gaps or areas for improvement with faculty workloads, scholarship, and/or student-faculty interactions?

III. Departmental Infrastructure & Resources:

- A. What are the gaps or areas of opportunity to move from "adequate facilities" to "strategic environments"? Consider physical, technological, and student support services.

IV. Curriculum Relevance & Agility:

- A. What are the gaps or areas of improvement regarding the curriculum, program sustainability, and relevance to students?
- o For example, consider things like
 - (a) Where do students consistently struggle to bridge the gap between theoretical classroom knowledge and "real-world" clinical or technical application? and/or
 - (b) Outside of the standard metrics (GPA, retention), what is the one qualitative indicator of student success we aren't currently measuring but should be?

V. Strategic Goals and Recommendations

- A. **Action Plan for Improvement:** Based on the identification of opportunities for improvement in previous sections, summarize the programs' primary goals for the next five years. The focus should be to identify specific features, resources, or pedagogical models that your program currently lacks and aims to develop.

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B. **Prioritized Recommendations:** Provide a rank-ordered list of actionable recommendations designed to address identified gaps and leverage opportunities for continuous improvement. This list will be used to create your MOU with the Provost.

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