

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents

From: Board Office

Subject: Accreditation Report of the Industrial Hygiene program (M.S.), College of Public Health, University of Iowa

Date: March 4, 2002

Recommended Action:

Receive the report.

Executive Summary:

Reaccreditation notification	On August 28, 2001, the University of Iowa was notified that the M.S. program in Industrial Hygiene was reaccredited until September 30, 2003.
Weaknesses	<p>In addition to noting several program strengths, the Visiting Team for the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) determined that there was one institutional weakness and two programmatic weaknesses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The institutional weakness was a lack of consistent designation of the Industrial Hygiene Track (IH) on graduating students' transcripts. • An audit form, created following the previous accreditation visit, was supposed to track undergraduate degree performance and curriculum. During the October 2000 visit, the team found no evidence that this audit form was being used, leading to uncertainty as to whether the candidates in the M.S. program satisfy Criterion II.A.2.a: Candidate Requirements. • Criterion II.A.2.c(3): Faculty Qualifications requires that the majority of faculty members have advanced degrees appropriate to their areas of expertise, extensive professional experience, and certification by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene (ABIH).
University response and ABET decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The University responded to the institutional weakness by offering documentation that a new procedure is in place to ensure that the Graduate College, the Department of Occupational and Environmental Health, and the Registrar will identify all graduating Industrial Hygiene students and enter the sub-track designation on their transcripts.

- In regard to the first programmatic weakness, the University has taken action through correspondence and assignment of a Graduate Student Coordinator to monitor the form, so such records are included in student files.
ABET decision: While descriptions are in place, the weakness remains unresolved until the process is demonstrated.
- The University has indicated that a new ABIH certified senior faculty member was hired, effective July 2001.
ABET decision: This weakness has been resolved.

Future action
required

An interim report is due to the accrediting agency by July 31, 2003. The report is to document corrective action taken in regard to:

- (1) The title of the degree on the transcript of each graduate. The University is requested to provide written administrative documentation of how the program designation on the student transcript has been implemented. It is also requested that the University provide a copy of the transcript for each Industrial Hygiene graduate who receives a degree in the interim.
- (2) Use of audit forms to evaluate undergraduate degree and curriculum for admission to the program. It is requested that the University provide evidence of the manner in which each Industrial Hygiene student has met the undergraduate Criterion for Candidate Requirements.

Strategic Plan:

Accreditation reviews are consistent with the Board of Regents' Strategic Plan, KRA 1.0.0.0, Quality. More specifically, the accreditation process relates to Objective 1.1.0.0., "to improve the quality of existing and newly created educational programs."

Background and Analysis:

Accreditation
agencies

The Related Accreditation Commission (RAC) of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, Inc. (ABET) evaluated the Industrial Hygiene master's program at the University of Iowa. It was last evaluated in 1994, and was initially accredited for a six-year period. The program is also evaluated by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene (ABIH).

Program profile and
primary goal

The Industrial Hygiene program at SUI is a sub-track within the Department of Occupational and Environmental Health in the College of Public Health. The Department has 11 primary faculty members, including, at the time of the visit, only one certified Industrial Hygiene faculty member.


To be admitted, students must have a bachelor's degree in a science or engineering field. Approximately one or two students graduate each year.

The overall goal of the program is to contribute to occupational disease prevention and injury prevention in industrial, environmental and agricultural sectors of Iowa, the region, and nationally, with an emphasis upon rural needs.

Program strengths The visiting team concluded:

- The research orientation of the faculty is a strength of the program. Its focus on rural and agricultural occupational hygiene concerns is unique. The great majority of faculty members have advanced degrees in their specialties. They have extensive professional experience and are active in their professional societies.
- The requirement of an ergonomics course is somewhat unique to this program and is a strength.

Copy of materials A complete copy of the materials on this accreditation action, including the self-study, on-site visiting team report, institutional response, and letter of formal notification of accreditation, is on file in the Board Office.


Charles R. Kniker

Approved: 
Gregory S. Nichols