

PROGRAM REVIEW BEST PRACTICES FOR THE MODERN INSTITUTION

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ABSTRACT:

Many institutions have an internal program review process that is used to evaluate educational programs and administrative departments, but each college or university has its own perception of how the process should work and for what purposes the results are meant to be used. Join this group conversation as we examine the question, "Is the traditional program review an outdated concept in today's environment?" We will share experiences and discuss ideas for effective, contemporary program reviews that lead to continuous improvement in our institutions.

ROUNDTABLE BEGINNING QUESTIONS:

1. Which programs/non-instructional areas are required to complete program reviews?
2. How frequently is program review completed?
3. What areas/topics does the program review examine?
4. How data driven is program review?
5. How rigorous is program review?
6. Is program review styled as a self-study or is it designed as an analysis by reviewers external to the program?
 - a. If a self-study process, who all is involved in performing/writing the study?
 - b. If a report is being prepared for analysis, who serves as the external reviewers?
 - c. What type of feedback is supplied to review completers?
7. Who sees the results of the program reviews?
8. What are the results of program reviews used for at organizations?
9. How does program review tie into the planning process?

BIG TAKEAWAY QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

In our constantly changing environment, with the data variables that are priority being continuously redefined and tweaked, how do we keep our program review process current? How do we keep it relevant? Has the old concept of "program review" grown outdated? Are we now moving into an environment that uses a more comprehensive "report card" or "dashboard" model that is continuously updated for programs rather than a periodic "program review"?