Wichita State University AY26 Program Review

Wichita State University's mission is to be an essential educational, cultural, and economic driver for Kansas and the greater public good. The university advances this mission through three institutional priorities: **Access and Affordability, Talent Pipeline, and Economic Prosperity.** Together, these priorities guide Wichita State's commitment to delivering high quality academic programs that support Kansas families and strengthen the state's workforce and economic future.

Wichita State is equally committed to student success, with a coordinated, campus wide strategy that has resulted in a 6.4 percentage point increase in first year retention, rising from 69.7% in 2021 to 76.1% in 2025. This improvement reflects sustained institutional investment in key areas:

- Campus wide engagement to close retention and completion gaps;

- Centralization of student success services within the Shocker Success Center;

- Systematic use of academic data to improve outcomes;

- Standardization of academic advising to ensure consistency across all majors;

- Development of intentional academic pathways that help students explore, select, and transition between majors; and

- Strengthening of financial aid processes through campus partnerships and proactive student outreach.

As part of the current KBOR program review cycle, Wichita State recognizes several programs that continue to work toward meeting required minima. The AY24 review identified five programs that must meet three of the four KBOR quantitative metrics by June 2027. Based on the most recent evaluation:

- Two programs now meet three of the four metrics, demonstrating meaningful progress under their action plans;

- One program has completed an approved merger and is now operating as a field major, supporting remaining students through degree completion;

- Two programs remain on action plans, continuing focused work to ensure they meet the required metrics within the established timeline.

Across the institution, programs continue to demonstrate cost effectiveness and alignment with KBOR's affordability expectations. Instructional costs remain competitive, program structures are designed for efficient delivery, and faculty resources are allocated strategically to maintain academic quality while ensuring sustainable operations. Wichita State's strong performance on affordability metrics - including transfer credit policies that significantly reduce remaining degree completion costs - underscores the university's commitment to accessible, affordable education for Kansas families.

Through focused action plans, data driven decision making, and institutional alignment with university priorities, Wichita State remains well positioned to ensure that all academic programs not only meet KBOR minima but also advance the university's mission of serving Kansas and contributing to the state's educational and economic vitality.

Institutional Overview of program review process

Wichita State University academic program review is organized around a year-long preparation and review of a program self-study that is intended to create a thoughtful assessment of the quality and relevance of academic programs and to establish goals for improvements. The process of reviewing academic programs is expected to strengthen the academic programs, identify program needs and campus priorities, identify areas for reorganization, and provide opportunities for both short and long-term goal setting. Each academic program review includes the department (faculty and chair) where the program is housed, the college dean, dean of the Graduate School (for graduate programs), the University Program Review committee, the vice provost of Academic Affairs, and the senior executive vice president and provost.

On a four-year cycle each academic unit prepares a program self-study using a standard reporting template. These four-year reports then feed into the required review by the Kansas Board of Regents (i.e., each program is required to be reviewed twice during an 8 year period). Programs that demonstrate the need for additional support are asked to complete interim reports. Hence, there is a continuous review process of each academic unit.

As outlined in Figure 1 below, the quadrennial reporting cycle begins in December, one year in advance of the due date, (on a staggered schedule so that college programs are reviewed together). The review cycle begins with a workshop for chairs and assessment coordinators which is hosted by the vice provost within the Division of Academic Affairs. The first submission deadline is April 1st when the program self-study and supporting documentation is submitted to the respective Dean's office for review. After which, the self-studies are reviewed by the Graduate School Dean (as appropriate) and then the University Program Review (UPR) committee where each department/unit is provided with an opportunity to discuss and clarify their self-study. The university committee then submits its final report with recommendations to the senior executive vice president/provost by January 30th of the next year.

Figure 1. Annual Timeline for Program Review
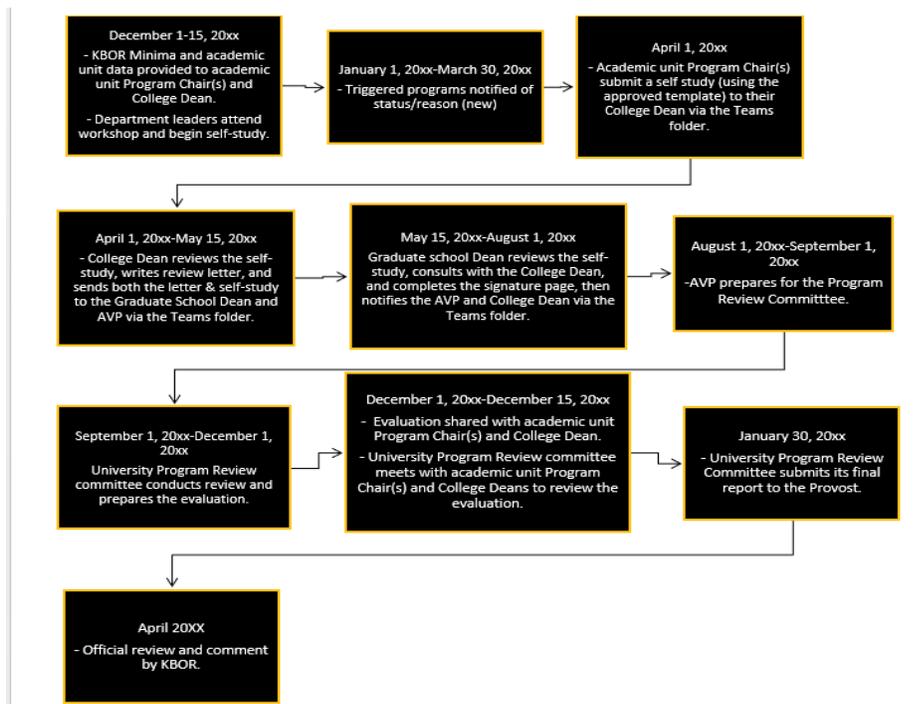
All programs are reviewed including those at the bachelor, master, and doctoral level.

To assist programs in writing their self-studies, departments/programs have access to:

- Program minima data provided by the Office of Planning and Analysis.

- Past self-studies performed by past department chairs.

- Results of previous review

- Data from exit surveys and other surveys collected by the University and within departments.

- External specialty accreditation reports (as appropriate).

The review of each academic program self-study is focused on the:

(1) Centrality of the program to fulfill the mission and the role of the institution

(2) Centrality of the program to support the university strategic plan;

(3) Quality of the program as assessed by the strengths, productivity, and qualifications of the faculty;

(4) The quality of the program as assessed by its curriculum and impact on students;

(5) Market demand for the program;

(6) Student demand, student accessibility, and student return on investment;

(7) The service the program provides to the discipline, the university, and beyond;

(8) Evidence of feedback loop demonstrating program improvement;

(9) Program cost effectiveness

A key aspect of Wichita State University's academic program review process is the work completed by the University Program Review Committee (UPR Committee). This committee provides essential faculty leadership, ensures consistency across academic units, and upholds the integrity of the program review process.

Purpose and Authority of the Committee

The University Program Review Committee is charged with providing faculty leadership for annual program reviews. Program reviews are comprehensive self-studies intended to support thoughtful assessment of academic program quality, relevance, and effectiveness, and to establish goals for ongoing improvement. The committee is empowered to review all academic programs on the university's quadrennial reporting cycle and to provide feedback that supports continuous program enhancement and alignment with institutional priorities.

Composition

The University Program Review Committee includes representation from across academic units and governance bodies to ensure balanced and informed review:

Members

1-year Term

One college dean representative (Dean or Associate Dean) whose college is not currently under review or preparing a review for spring submission.

2-year Term

Two department chairs who are not currently being reviewed or preparing for review.

3-year Term

Three faculty at-large representatives appointed by the Faculty Senate Rules Committee, representing research, non-tenure track, and teaching/service faculty at both the undergraduate and graduate (including PhD) levels and reflecting broad disciplinary perspectives.
(At committee initiation, 1-year, 2-year, and 3-year appointments will be made; all faculty will serve 3-year terms thereafter.)

- Three Faculty Senate representatives: the President, President-Elect, and Immediate Past President.

Chair

- The Vice Provost nfor Academic Affairs serves as Chair of the Committee.

Ex Officio Member

- A representative from the Office of Planning & Analysis (OPA).

Responsibilities

The University Program Review Committee has broad responsibility for faculty oversight of the program review process, including:

1. **Providing broad faculty oversight** in implementing the university program review process.

2. **Periodically reviewing and updating** the University Program Review documents—including the self-study template, directions, and review rubric—to ensure clarity, consistency, and alignment with institutional priorities.

3. **Reviewing program self-studies** using the university program review template and providing constructive feedback to programs, departments, and colleges. Each program is reviewed at least once every four years.

4. **Periodically reviewing and updating** the Committee's roles and responsibilities to ensure continued relevance and effectiveness.

Affordability Metric – Number of transfer hours

Wichita State University's commitment to the KBOR strategic plan focuses on Families—Affordability, Access, and Success is reflected in its longstanding leadership as Kansas's #1 transfer destination for 14 consecutive years. Helping families through enhanced access and affordability remains a defining institutional priority. At Wichita State, transfer students have access to an integrated set of supports - transfer scholarships, dual advising, applied learning opportunities, and flexible course modalities—all designed to remove barriers and help students successfully navigate their academic pathways. Tools like the Transfer Gateway empower students to estimate how their completed coursework will apply to their intended major, reducing uncertainty and improving planning, while dual advising ensures community college students can avoid unnecessary duplication, stay aligned with degree requirements, and transition smoothly to Wichita State.

Affordability Metric – Number of transfer hours data provided by KBOR represents 68 bachelor's program entries across 63 CIP codes and seven colleges. The data demonstrates that Wichita State provides strong and consistent transfer affordability. Of the 66 active programs

with a defined maximum, 89% allow up to 75 credits from a two-year college, representing 62.5% of a standard 120-credit bachelor's degree and leaving only 45 credits to be completed at WSU. Even in programs with higher total credit requirements—particularly in engineering (124–129 SCH)—most still maintain the same 45-credit Wichita State remaining pattern, signaling a system-wide design that supports predictable, cost-effective transfer pathways. Only one program, Industrial Engineering, shows a lower maximum, 67 of 125 credits (53.6%), reflecting field-specific sequencing major requirements (58 credits remaining at Wichita State) rather than a systemic barrier.

In this spreadsheet, Wichita State has represented the maximum transfer hours in accordance with the KBOR reporting requirement for the column titled "Maximum Number of Transfer Hours from 2-Year Colleges that Apply to Program." However, actual applied transfer credit can vary for individual students based on multiple factors, including prior coursework, program sequencing, and student academic goals. For this reason, Wichita State provides extensive support for transfer students including academic degree maps, dual advising, and multiple transfer-focused resources to ensure students understand how their credits apply and to promote efficient, cost-effective pathways to degree completion.

For students and families, the implications are clear: a student who completes an associate degree or substantial lower-division coursework at a community college can typically transfer to Wichita State needing only about 45 additional credits to graduate. This structure significantly reduces both the overall cost of the degree and time-to-completion, enabling students to benefit from Wichita State's applied learning environment and supportive academic network without incurring unnecessary expense. The consistency across programs underscores Wichita State's intentional commitment to making higher education more affordable, accessible, and achievable for Kansas families.

Affordability Metric – Full-Time Junior/Senior Majors

This KBOR Affordability Metric examines the percentage of full-time juniors and seniors who complete at least 30 credit hours per year—or graduate—provides important insight into affordability, access, and student momentum. Among the 62 Wichita State University bachelor's programs represented in this dataset, the average rate of full-time juniors and seniors meeting the 30-credit or completion threshold is 63.3%, indicating strong progress overall. KBOR's review highlighted programs falling below 50%, specifically Management Information Systems (49.2%), Art/Art Studies (43.1%), Game and Interactive Media Design (47.7%), Geology/Earth Science (44.7%), and Physical Education Teaching and Coaching (47.8%). These programs reflect the demographic realities of the students they serve rather than systemic affordability challenges. As an institution with a large transfer population—an average of 730 each fall—variability in full-time velocity is expected, as many transfer students arrive with diverse academic timelines and work–life responsibilities.

Wichita State's mission as an urban-serving institution is rooted in helping families through greater access and affordability, aligning directly with the KBOR strategic plan for Families:

Affordability, Access, and Success. A substantial portion of WSU students are working adults and parents, and many enroll in 9-12 credit hours per semester to balance academic work with employment and caregiving. Additionally, WSU's commitment to applied learning in every degree program means students frequently engage in internships, clinical placements, cooperative education, undergraduate research, and industry-embedded experiences. These opportunities—while essential for career readiness—can influence course-taking patterns, particularly for students managing work obligations. Despite these dynamics, Wichita State's strong applied learning environment ensures that students build professional networks, marketable skills, and career momentum even when enrolled at a pace below the 30-credit benchmark. Collectively, these data highlight both Wichita State's ongoing commitment to affordability and the complex realities faced by the multiple student populations the university proudly serves.

To further strengthen performance on the KBOR Affordability Metric—which examines whether full time juniors and seniors complete at least 30 credit hours per year or graduate—Wichita State will implement the following continuous improvement strategies. These steps recognize that variation in full time velocity is shaped by Wichita State's student demographics, including a large population of transfer students, working adults, and parents, as well as applied learning requirements that shape course taking patterns in meaningful ways.

1. **Expand Junior/Senior Milestone Advising with Early Term Credit Pace Monitoring:** Wichita State will strengthen proactive advising at the junior milestone, reaching students earlier in the term to review credit hour pace, identify risks for falling below full time thresholds, and intervene where necessary. This includes advising touchpoints focused on mapping the final 45–60 credit hours, clarifying course sequencing, and building individualized pacing plans for students balancing employment and caregiving.

2. **Strengthen Transfer Pathways to Ensure Credit Applicability and Reduce Credit Loss:** Wichita State enrolls an average of 730 new transfer students each fall, the university will continue refining articulation agreements and program transfer maps to ensure transfer students arrive with fewer credit gaps and can maintain closer proximity to the 30 credit benchmark. Wichita State will also enhance further the use of Transfer Gateway and dual advising partnerships with community colleges to further reduce misalignment of prior coursework.

4. **Implement Targeted Interventions in Highlighted Programs Below 50%:** Academic units with junior/senior full time rates below 50%—including MIS, Art/Art Studies, Game and Interactive Media Design, Geology/Earth Science, and Physical Education Teaching/Coaching—will undergo curriculum sequencing reviews to identify bottlenecks, high demand upper division courses, or field experience structures that may limit credit accumulation.

5. **Integrate Affordability Messaging and Course Load Planning into Applied Learning Advising:** Given Wichita State's commitment to applied learning in every degree program, academic units will incorporate conversations about credit hour pacing, internship timing, and financial implications into applied learning advising. This ensures students understand how to participate fully in high impact experiences without unintentionally slowing momentum toward degree completion.

Completion Metric – Junior Graduation Rate

This KBOR Completion metric examines Junior Graduation Rate, defined by KBOR as the percentage of full-time undergraduate junior majors in the fall who graduate with a bachelor's degree within three years. For Wichita State University, KBOR evaluated 59 bachelor's programs with at least four years of graduate data, revealing strong performance across much of the academic portfolio. Many Wichita State programs exceed the 75% junior graduation threshold, with several achieving exceptional completion rates in the 80–90% range, including Communication and Media Studies (82.8%), Exercise Science (81.4%), Social Work (81.7%), Clinical Lab Sciences (83.3%), Nursing (83.6%), Business/Managerial Economics (84.4%), Finance (87.5%), Political Science (87.3%), Sociology (88.5%), Graphic Design (88.7%), Communication Sciences and Disorders (91.3%), and Dental Hygiene (91.3%). These results reflect strong curricular coherence, advising pathways, and student momentum once they attain junior status.

The Wichita State programs identified below the 75% reference point—including Music Teacher Education, Computer Engineering, Forensic Science, Homeland Security, Chemistry, Physics, Physical Education Teaching/Coaching, and several engineering and science fields—represent STEM and applied professions where intensive sequencing, required lab and clinical hours, and specialized upper-division coursework as factors that can naturally influence time-to-degree. Moreover, Wichita State serves a student body with a high proportion of working adults and parents, many of whom enroll in 9-12 credit hours per semester to balance academic progress with employment and caregiving responsibilities. At WSU, applied learning is integrated into every degree program, often through internships, clinical placements, cooperative education, and undergraduate research—experiences that enhance career readiness but can extend enrollment patterns for students who must coordinate these requirements with work schedules. Collectively, these conditions can shape the pacing of junior-to-senior progression and graduation at our university.

Wichita State continues to advance student completion outcomes through a campuswide, equity-focused initiative designed to equalize the six-year graduation rates between underserved and non-underserved student groups. This work directly aligns with the *KBOR Family* pillar's emphasis on eliminating barriers to success and ensuring that all students—regardless of demographic background or circumstance—have a clear, supported path to degree completion. Wichita State's position as Kansas's largest transfer-receiving institution further strengthens this commitment, as the university's degree pathways are intentionally structured to support

affordable and timely completion. The ability for most transfer students to apply up to 75 credit hours toward the bachelor's degree, leaving only 45 credits to complete at WSU, represents a substantial affordability advantage and supports smoother, more efficient progression through the junior year into graduation.

For programs falling below the 75% junior graduation rate, Wichita State will focus on targeted, data-informed improvements; curriculum sequencing and bottleneck reduction; enhanced Junior-Year advising interventions; continue to strengthen transfer credit alignment

Undergraduate Programs Identified as not meeting 1 of the 4 KBOR quantitative minima criteria

Wichita State University remains committed to continuous improvement and transparent evaluation of its academic programs. The undergraduate programs listed in this section each meet three of the four KBOR quantitative minima, demonstrating strong performance in areas such as enrollment, post-graduation employment, and wage outcomes. At the same time, the university acknowledges the single quantitative indicator where each program currently falls below the established benchmark. Academic units have already initiated targeted, data-informed strategies to strengthen these metrics, address identified gaps, and ensure continued alignment with institutional goals and KBOR expectations.

College of Applied Studies (College of Education)

- Physical Education Teaching and Coaching- Bachelor's Degree:
  - Meets 3 of the 4 minima
    - 33 majors; $63,102 Post 2019 median salary; and 95.8% employed in region upon completion of degree
  - Minima indicator currently below identified threshold
    - Identified for not meeting number of undergraduate completers (degree production), 7.75/10
  - Program Response
    - Prior to AY23, there were zero full-time faculty in the program due to retirements. During this time, all courses were taught by adjuncts. Since the new program chair began her position in 2022-23, the program has grown significantly in enrollment. This enrollment growth will have positive impact on the number of completers, and we anticipate reaching the KBOR 4-year average requirement in 2027 with 9 completers in 2025, 14 in 2026, and 11 in 2027.

      Program is focused on pipeline recruitment with 2+2 agreements with Butler Community College & Hutchinson Community College. Program is creating a more streamlined path for students to transfer from 2-year

institution and building additional transfer partnerships with other community colleges in Kansas.

- Organizational Leadership & Learning (OLL) - Bachelor's Degree:
    - Meets 3 of the 4 minima
        - 31.25 majors; First grads in 2022 - 5 year median salary available in 2027; and 71.4% employed in region upon completion of degree
    - Minima indicator currently below identified threshold
        - Identified for not meeting number of undergraduate completers (degree production), 9.5/10
    - Program Response
        - The OLL program launched in the Spring of 2020, and enrollment has grown significantly over the past five years. In 2025, this program had 24 completers bringing the most recent 4-year average to 14.25.

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Most recent 4-year avg. (2022-2025)
OLL Completers	5	10	6	17	24	**14.25**

    - Current enrollment in the program is 85 students.
    - Program is continuing efforts to grow enrollment through strategies such as:
        - Created three concentrations in partnership with WSU Tech: E-commerce strategy, Administration and Supervision, and Industrial Automation. This allows better articulation between OLL (WSU) and WSU Tech.
        - Working with McConnell AFB to grow the MOU between McConnell and WSU.

College of Fine Arts

- Music (General) – Bachelor's degree:
    - Meets 3 of the 4 minima
        - 63.75 majors; 17 completers (graduates); and 69.6% employed in region upon completion of degree
    - Minima indicator currently below identified threshold
        - Identified for not meeting median salary of $42,160 5 years after graduation. Data shows 6 grads @ $39,456 Post 2018 (2023) and 5 grads @ $32,304 Post 2019 (2024).
    - Program Response:

- CIP code - 50.901: Bachelor - Music, General would be in alignment with our Bachelor of Arts in Music Degree. For many years this degree was considered a third "tier" degree in the School of Music. The primary focus was recruiting students for the Bachelor of Music in Performance or the Bachelor of Music Education degrees. The college recently revised the Bachelor of Arts degree and believes that average number of graduates will increase. There are currently 23 students enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts program.

  The adjustments make the degree a more liberal arts focused degree with a foundation in music. The college has begun marketing the degree in earnest and has seen an increase in students interested in the degree. Additionally, the college has added a new concentration in the Bachelor of Arts in Music, the Music Industry Studies emphasis that will allow students to focus on the technical and production aspects of the industry versus the performing and/or teaching aspects. This emphasis within the degree is in response to the recent partnership between Wichita State University and Somewhere Works located within downtown Wichita, KS. An opportunity that is affording Wichita State students applied learning opportunities within 7,000 square feet of creative space Marketing for that degree will begin in Spring 2026.

  Based on these changes within the Bachelor - Music, General, the program and college are confident this metric will change. Currently, the data related to wage potential is from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. There are three professions that align with this CIP code: Musicians and Singers, Music Directors and Composers, and Producers and Directors. The median income for all three of these professions is well above the indicated figures of 39,456 (Post 2018) or $32,304 (Post 2019). The lowest median income for this major as reported by the BLS is $30.61/hr. ($60,670 annually).

College of Engineering

- Manufacturing Engineering – Bachelor's Degree
  - Meets 3 of the 4 minima
    - 44.5 majors; 70.8% employed in region upon completion of degree; and Median wage is $56,953 Post 2018 (2023) and $42,944 Post 2019 (2024)
  - Minima indicator currently below identified threshold
    - Identified for not meeting number of undergraduate completers (degree production), 9.25/10

- o Program Response:
  The program anticipates graduating 15 students in AY2025. It receives a significant number of internal transfers from other engineering majors when students seek a better alignment with their career goals while remaining in engineering fields relevant to local manufacturing, industry, and government. Given its strong four-year average of juniors and seniors, the program is confident it will meet the KBOR minima within the next two academic years.

Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

- Homeland Security- Bachelor's degree:
  - o Meets 3 of the 4 minima
    - 31.5 majors; 55% employed in region upon completion of degree; and no data for median wage, first graduates were in AY2020
  - o Minima indicator currently below identified threshold
    - Identified for not meeting number of undergraduate completers (degree production), 9.25/10
  - o Program Response:
    The Bachelor of Homeland Security program degree opened for majors in 2017 and graduated its first students in 2020.

    A review of the degrees awarded in 2021 through 2024 have shown growth from a low of 3 degrees awarded in 2021 to a high of 13 degrees awarded in 2024. The steady pattern of growth provides strong evidence for this program to exceed the completion goal of at least 10 degrees in the most recent 4 years. In addition. current data indicates a four-year average of 31.50 juniors and seniors in the program, demonstrating a strong likelihood of meeting this metric in the next review period. This program will strengthen their Junior/Senior Milestone Advising - reaching students earlier in the term to review credit-hour pace, identify risks for falling below full-time thresholds, and intervene where necessary.

- Sociology- Bachelor's degree:
  - o Meets 3 of the 4 minima
    - 31.25 majors; 77.4% employed in region upon completion of degree; and Median wage is $55,778 Post 2018 (2023) and $63,799 Post 2019 (2024)
  - o Minima indicator currently below identified threshold
    - Identified for not meeting number of undergraduate completers (degree production), 8/10
  - o Program Response:

Over the past four years, the Department of Sociology has seen that many students entering the bachelor's program are non-traditional learners balancing full time employment, family responsibilities, and other complex personal demands. These circumstances often require students to enroll part time, take lighter course loads, or step away temporarily to manage financial or caregiving obligations. As a result, many students shift from the Sociology B.A. to the Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) with a Sociology emphasis, a pathway intentionally designed to support adult learners pursuing sociological coursework with fewer structural barriers. While these shifts affect traditional retention and completion metrics, they reflect the program's commitment to offering flexible, student centered routes to degree completion and long term success.

In response to these enrollment and completion trends, the department is engaged in targeted efforts to strengthen student progress and program effectiveness. Faculty are analyzing long term program needs and opportunities. The department is also employing WSU Student Early Alert System (SEAS) to identify at risk students and intervene early, using degree maps to help students plan efficient pathways to graduation, and participating in the Kansas Core Outcomes Project to support course transferability. To better accommodate students' varied schedules and responsibilities, the department is offering a mix of traditional and online courses, while simultaneously evaluating curriculum to more clearly emphasize the marketable skills and career pathways associated with a Sociology degree.

Dorothy and Bill Cohen Honors College

- Honors Baccalaureate- Interdisciplinary degree:
  - This interdisciplinary degree requires a minimum of 120 credit hours. To complete the degree students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.25; complete 21 honors credit hours including a research or design-thinking experience (3-4 credit hours) chosen from a list of options and HNRS 491 Honors Thesis (3 credit hours); and complete two or three concentrations (36 credit hours) from at least two colleges.
  As an interdisciplinary degree, this program does not have to meet enrollment or completion minima but required to meet the median salary and talent pipeline. For these two KBOR minima, this interdisciplinary degree meets the median salary with $46,062 as the 5 year salary post 2019. The Talent Pipeline is not met 1 year post graduation with 46.2%. This is due to the fact that most students within this degree graduate and continue on into graduate school for further study and preparation for careers in areas such as university teaching, law, medicine, community activism or entrepreneurship.

Undergraduate Programs New Program being monitored based on KBOR quantitative minima criteria

As a newly established program, the Applied Linguistics bachelor's degree is still in the early stages of generating sufficient data for KBOR evaluation. Wichita State University is closely monitoring the program's development to ensure it progresses toward meeting at least three of the four KBOR quantitative minima as required. While the program does not yet have four years of completer or wage data—reflecting its first graduating class in AY2022—it has shown steady growth in enrollment and early positive employment outcomes. The university and the college remain actively engaged in supporting program visibility, recruitment, and student success as the program continues to mature and build a multi-year record for future KBOR review.

Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

- Applied Linguistics- Bachelor's degree:
  This degree launched in Fall 2021 and the first graduating class was in AY2022. With the program being new the following is where the program is regarding each of the KBOR minima and the college and program response.
  - No current data for minima
    - No data for number of completers has not had 4 years of completers, however, with the most recent 3 years of completers there is an average of 1 completer. In 2022 the program had 2 completers, 1 completer in 2023, and 1 completer in 2024.
    - No data for median wage 5 years after graduation with first graduates in program occurring in AY2022.
    - 100% of the current completers in AY2022 are employed in the region 1 year after graduation
  - Minima indicator currently below identified threshold
    - Identified for not meeting number of majors, 5.25/25
  - Program Response
    The Applied Linguistics major offers three interdisciplinary tracks—General Linguistics, Speech Pathology and Communication Sciences, and Computer Science and Data Science—and is the only program of its kind in Kansas. Designed to prepare students for careers in fields such as health professions, machine learning, education, and other language-related disciplines, the program has experienced steady growth following a slow post-COVID start. Overall headcount has increased each year, rising from 7 majors in 2022 to 19 in 2025, and early-year students are not yet reflected in KBOR metrics.

    The department continues to actively support program visibility and recruitment through targeted initiatives. These include an online ad campaign launched in partnership with Strategic Communications, updated print and web materials, and new outreach efforts in K–12 schools and Butler Community College. Additional

plans include developing a first year seminar course and participating in the International Linguistics Olympiad to build early student interest in linguistics.

Graduate Programs Identified as not meeting 1 of the 2 KBOR quantitative minima criteria

Wichita State University remains committed to continuous improvement and the transparent evaluation of its graduate programs. The programs included in this section <u>each meet one of the two KBOR quantitative minima</u>, demonstrating strength in areas such as enrollment or degree production. At the same time, the university acknowledges the single quantitative indicator where each program currently falls below the established benchmark. Academic units are actively implementing targeted, data-informed strategies to strengthen performance on these indicators, address identified gaps, and ensure continued alignment with institutional priorities and KBOR expectations. These efforts reflect the university's ongoing commitment to supporting graduate program quality, sustainability, and student success.

College of Fine Arts

- <u>Fine Arts Studio -Master's degree:</u>
  - Meets 1 of the 2 minima
    - 17.75 majors (12 or more required)
  - Minima indicator currently below identified threshold
    - Identified for not meeting number of completers, most recent 4 year average is 3.75 of the 5 required
  - Program Response
    - While not a doctorate, the MFA (Master of Fine Arts) is considered a terminal degree and is recognized as the professional equivalent to a PhD for hiring in many art, design, and creative writing positions.

      For the Visual Arts, it is the accepted terminal degree, noted by organizations such as the College Art Association and the National Association of Schools of Art and Design. It is not a 30 or 36-hour degree as most master's degrees are, it is a rigorous 60-hour degree that takes three years to complete with a thesis exhibition and oral defense.

      At KBOR level, a doctorate program must have 2 or more completers in the most recent 4 years, and this program meets that metric.

      The program is focusing on increasing the graduate stipends for candidates within the program that will increase retention and lead to an increase with number of completers.

Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

- Foreign Language/Literature -Master's degree:
    - o Meets 1 of the 2 minima
        - ▪ 16.25 majors (12 or more required)
    - o Minima indicator currently below identified threshold
        - ▪ Identified for not meeting number of completers, most recent 4 year average is 3.25 of the 5 required
    - o Program Response
    Specifically this degree is the Master of Arts in Spanish. Over the past four years, enrollment and degree completion in the Master of Arts in Spanish have stabilized, with an average of slightly more than three graduates per year. Despite this stabilization, the program remains strongly committed to improving completion rates and expanding its reach. Several strategic initiatives support this commitment, including the development of new graduate certificates to broaden pathways into the MA program and the planned launch of a third certificate in Fall 2026 focused on foreign language pedagogy. The department is also working toward offering all certificates online, enabling recruitment of students both domestically and internationally—particularly from Spanish-speaking regions where demand for advanced bilingual training is high. Additionally, curriculum updates implemented in 2025 reduced the MA from 32 to 30 credit hours, aligning the program with peer institutions.

    At the same time, the department has prioritized strengthening local recruitment pipelines, especially within Wichita's Latino community. By broadening admission criteria, the program has seen increased interest from heritage speakers and working professionals with strong Spanish proficiency who seek to further develop their academic and career credentials. These combined efforts—curricular refinement, expanded credentialing options, online delivery planning, and targeted community engagement—position the MA in Spanish for continued growth and improved student success.

- History -Master's degree:
    - o Meets 1 of the 2 minima
        - ▪ 21.75 majors (12 or more required)
    - o Minima indicator currently below identified threshold
        - ▪ Identified for not meeting number of completers, most recent 4 year average is 4 of the 5 required
    - o Program Response

The Department of History remains optimistic about recent developments in both enrollment and degree completion within the Master of History program. Several positive trends support this outlook:

- Strong Internal Recruitment Pathway: Historically, a significant proportion of applicants to the master's program have come from our own undergraduate majors. As undergraduate numbers improve, we anticipate a corresponding increase in students transitioning into the master's program.
- Growing Interest from High School Educators: The program continues to attract secondary-level history instructors who seek to enhance their teaching effectiveness through advanced study and deeper engagement with historical research. This group has become an increasingly important contributor to graduate enrollment.
- Targeted Outreach Efforts: The department is actively expanding its outreach to high school history teachers across the region. These efforts are designed to raise awareness of the master's program and highlight its value for professional development, thereby strengthening both enrollment and completion prospects.

- Physics -Master's degree:
  - Meets 1 of the 2 minima
    - 12.5 majors (12 or more required)
  - Minima indicator currently below identified threshold
    - Identified for not meeting number of completers, most recent 4 year average is 3.25 of the 5 required
  - Program Response
    Program enrollment has increased to 15 candidates this semester. The program is focused on supporting student persistence and is currently 1.75 completers short of meeting the KBOR minima. To strengthen outcomes, the program is developing a pathway to the Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics, enabling students to transition seamlessly from the master's program to doctoral study. Program emphases include applied mathematics, statistics, and applied mathematics-physics, and this strategy is expected to help the program meet required benchmarks.

Graduate Programs Incorrectly Identified as not meeting 2 of the 2 KBOR quantitative minima criteria

College of Engineering

- Computer Systems Networking & Telecommunications – Master's Degree
  - Meets 0 of the 2 minima based on KBOR data

- o Minima indicator currently below identified threshold
  - ▪ Identified for not meeting number of majors, most recent 4 year average is 7.5 of the 12 required
  - ▪ Identified for not meeting number of completers, most recent 4 year average is 4.25 of the 5 required
- o Program Response

  In reviewing the data for these two KBOR minima, it was determined that there was a data discrepancy due to a coding error.

  - • 11.0901 is "Computing" in the KBOR system - Program Review data uses the CIP descriptions instead of the actual program names given by the institution. At Wichita State 11.0101 is "Computer Science"
  - • For the last few years, WSU Office of Planning and Analysis reported (most) students who were really in the 11.0901 program as being in the 11.0101 program due to a coding error

  WSU Office of Planning & Analysis (OPA), it was determined that for the previous few years in reporting to KBOR they have been grouping the major code G35E into the MS in Computer Science program instead of the MS in Computing which would correctly line up with WSU's department structure.

  This error is the result of a typo in OPA's script they made while trying correct other coding errors in KBOR's collection, the Program codes for the Computing and Computer Science programs are only 1 character off (MS_CS vs MS_CN), and they missed the typo.

  We are in communication with KBOR to correct this error. This program should not be flagged as not meeting minima.

This table represents the numbers that were reported to KBOR in error for "Computing" (11.0901):

COMPUTING	Majors in the Program		Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023	Fall 2024	4 yr. Average	Triggered
		Freshmen/Sophomores (optional)						
		Jrs., Srs., 5th Year Majors						
		Masters		6	1		3.5	
		Doctoral						
	Degrees Conferred in the Program		FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	4 yr. Average	Triggered
		Associate						
		Baccalaureate						

		Masters	14	3				8.5
		Doctorate						

This table represents the numbers that should have been reported to KBOR for "Computing" (11.0901):

			Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023	Fall 2024	4 yr. Average	Triggered
COMPUTING	Majors in the Program	Freshmen/Sophomores (optional)						
		Jrs., Srs., 5th Year Majors						
		Masters	25	93	51	17	46.5	
		Doctoral						
	Degrees Conferred in the Program		FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	4 yr. Average	Triggered
		Associate						
		Baccalaureate						
		Masters	14	7	66	52	34.75	
		Doctorate						

Graduate Programs Identified as not meeting 2 of the 2 KBOR quantitative minima criteria

Wichita State University remains firmly committed to continuous improvement and the ongoing evaluation of all academic programs. The graduate programs highlighted in this section currently do not meet the two KBOR quantitative minima required; however, the university is fully aware of these gaps and has ensured that each program is engaged in a structured action plan to address them. Academic units have already begun implementing targeted, data-informed strategies aimed at strengthening enrollment, increasing degree-production, and improving long-term program viability. These efforts reflect WSU's dedication to supporting high-quality graduate education, aligning program performance with KBOR expectations, and ensuring that each program is positioned for sustainable growth and student success.

College of Health Professions

- Nursing Science -Master's degree:
  - Meets 0 of the 2 minima based on KBOR data
  - Minima indicator currently below identified threshold
    - Identified for not meeting number of majors, most recent 4 year average is 10 of the 12 required
    - Identified for not meeting number of completers (degree production), most recent 4 year average is 3 of the required 5
  - Program Response **- Action Plan**
    The Master of Nursing Science is moving forward with an action plan to meet at minimum 1 of the 2 KBOR minima within 3 academic years.

Several factors contribute to these lower numbers, including limited employer wage differentiation between BSN- and MSN-prepared nurses, low teaching salaries compared with clinical practice, and national shifts in demand from MSN leadership pathways to DNP (Doctor of Nursing Practice) programs following AACN (American Association of Colleges of Nursing) recommendations for nurse practitioner education. In addition, marketing efforts for the MSN program have been modest, which has likely constrained visibility and student interest. To address these challenges and begin meeting KBOR minima, the program has initiated multiple strategic actions. The Director of Graduate Nursing is collaborating with regional healthcare partners, such as Ascension Via Christi, who have expressed a need for expanded nursing leadership preparation, including maintaining the MSN and developing a DNP Nurse Executive track. The program recently launched a revised MSN Education curriculum to strengthen relevance and academic quality, and faculty continue to promote graduate study through outreach to undergraduate nursing classes. Additional efforts—including creating dual-degree pathways, leveraging the program's role in developing future nursing faculty, and emphasizing the flexible enrollment structure for working RNs—position the MSN program for renewed growth and sustained contribution to workforce and academic needs.

Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

- Physical Sciences, General   -Master's degree:
    - Meets 0 of the 2 minima based on KBOR data
    - Minima indicator currently below identified threshold
        - Identified for not meeting number of majors, most recent 4 year average is 10.75 of the 12 required and number of completers (degree production) 4.5 of the required 5
    - Program Response **- Action Plan**
      The Earth, Environmental, and Physical Sciences (EEPS) master's program is moving forward with an action plan to meet at minimum 1 of the 2 KBOR minima within 3 academic years.

      This program has demonstrated steady enrollment growth, supported by enhanced advertising efforts, and increased faculty visibility at major international conferences. As of Fall 2026, enrollment rose to 13 students, reflecting continued interest in interdisciplinary environmental science training.

      Recruitment initiatives will continue to emphasize the program's applied and interdisciplinary strengths. Current promotional strategies—such as targeted

advertising and conference outreach—will be expanded to include partnerships with environmental consulting firms, state agencies, and nonprofit organizations to create applied learning placements and employer-sponsored cohort pipelines. Faculty will also increase engagement with undergraduate geology and environmental science programs across Kansas and surrounding states and develop virtual information sessions to reach prospective students nationally and internationally. Together, these combined strategies aim to sustain enrollment growth, enhance program visibility, and reinforce the EEPS master's program as a regional leader in advanced environmental and geoscience training.

- Sociology -Master's degree:
  - Meets 0 of the 2 minima based on KBOR data
  - Minima indicator currently below identified threshold
    - Identified for not meeting number of majors, most recent 4 year average is 7 of the 12 required and number of completers (degree production) 2.25 of the required 5
  - Program Response – **Action Plan**
    The Master of Sociology is moving forward with an action plan to meet at minimum 1 of the 2 KBOR minima within 3 academic years.
    This degree has experienced enrollment declines over the past four years, driven largely by reduced numbers of international students and fewer graduates continuing directly from the WSU Sociology B.A. program into the M.A. program. Enrollment and completion patterns also reflect that many M.A. students are adult learners balancing full-time employment, caregiving responsibilities, and other personal commitments, with many relying on graduate assistantships or financial support to complete the degree. These factors highlight the ongoing need for flexible program options and stable funding opportunities to support student persistence.

    In response, the department is implementing several targeted strategies to strengthen recruitment, retention, and program viability. Efforts include maximizing graduate teaching assistantship allocations, collaborating with the WSU Foundation to develop new fellowships and scholarships, and expanding recruitment beyond Sociology majors to include students from related social science fields. The department is also evaluating the feasibility of an online M.A. program to better serve working adults and exploring partnerships with regional businesses and nonprofit organizations to support employees seeking advanced credentials. Additionally, the program now offers a non-thesis internship/applied learning track and is increasing communication efforts to ensure students are

aware of this option while strengthening branding around the applied research, analytical, and technological skills developed through the degree.

AY24 Annual Program Review Update

Action plans were implemented in AY24 for four of the five programs listed, and progress continues to be closely monitored by the university, college, and programs. While 2 of the 4 programs now meet 3 of the 4 KBOR minima, 2 remain on action plans and remain focused on addressing the final unmet area. These programs are required to meet three of the four minima by June 2027 and remain committed to their action plans while aligning efforts with institutional priorities, including access, affordability, and strengthening Kansas's workforce pipeline. One program adopted an approved merger plan in AY24 and is continuing to serve its remaining bachelor's-level students through completion.

Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

- Women's Studies - Bachelor's degree merged to a field major
  - Update on Merge Plan: The program was merged into the Department of English as a field major following an approved merge plan. One faculty member was reassigned to the department, and a program coordinator was appointed. The curriculum has been streamlined to five core courses, with additional requirements fulfilled through affiliated departments. Four students who enrolled prior to the merger are completing their degrees, and no barriers have been identified that would impede their progress toward graduation.

- Philosophy – Bachelor's degree
  - Update on Action Plan: In AY24 this program was triggered for not meeting student demand and degree production and this is still the case with the current data (AY26 shows 12.5/25 majors and 3.25/10 completers most recent 4 year average).
  - The Philosophy program has demonstrated strong and consistent growth, with primary majors increasing from 12 in 2024 to 20 in 2026 and total majors rising from 17 to 28, reflecting successful recruitment and enhanced student interest. This progress is the result of a comprehensive, multi-year strategy that includes targeted advising, expanded outreach, creation of high impact engagement opportunities such as the Ethics Bowl team and Philosophy Summer Camps, and strengthened collaboration with LAS Advising and OneStop. Curricular innovations—such as Indigenous Philosophy, First Year Seminars, and the Philosophy at Work applied learning course—have broadened student access and reinforced the program's applied value. Focused retention efforts, including emergency student support and degree pathway improvements, position the program for continued stability and growth

- Geology/Earth Science– Bachelor's degree
  - Update on Action Plan: In AY24 this program was triggered for not meeting student demand and degree production and this is still the case with the current data (AY 25 shows 17.75/25 majors and 5/10 completers for most recent 4 year avg.).

    The Department of Geology continues to advance its strategic plan by expanding entry-level course offerings, increasing high-school outreach, and enhancing the visibility of geology across campus and the region. Graduate enrollment remains stable, with headcounts rising to 19 students in Fall 2025. Recruitment initiatives such as the annual Geology Career Fair have increased student engagement and broadened awareness of career pathways in environmental geology, hazard mitigation, and government service.

- Physics– Bachelor's degree
  - Update on Action Plan: In AY24 this program was triggered for not meeting degree production and talent pipeline. The program now meets the talent pipeline with 58.3% employed in the region within 1 year of graduating along with student demand and student ROI (median salary). The average number of completers is still a minima that is not met with the most recent AY26 data showing 5.5/10 completers in most recent 4 year average. This is still a focus area for the program while maintain meeting KBOR minima in the other three areas.

    The Division of Physics has strengthened its recruitment and retention efforts through a multifaceted strategy that includes leveraging WSU marketing resources, placing top instructors in introductory physics courses to attract double majors, and updating web and advising materials to better engage undecided students. The program revised course descriptions for greater clarity, expanded PreK–12 and high-school outreach, and collaborated with engineering student groups to increase the visibility of physics within the broader STEM community. Additionally, the Physics Help Desk's relocation to the Shocker Success Center has significantly increased student use of tutoring services, and a Foundation-supported seminar series has showcased the strong employability of physics graduates. The addition of a visiting assistant professor has further improved instructional capacity, with high student demand for his sections. While these initiatives are expected to increase enrollment and improve completion rates, the department acknowledges that measurable impact will require time.

- Forensic Science and Technology– Bachelor's degree
  - Update on Action Plan: In AY24 this program was triggered for not meeting degree production and student ROI. This program now meets the student ROI (median salary) at $52,719, along with student demand and talent pipeline. Degree production is still an area of focus for the program, with the AY26 data showing 8/10 completers for most recent 4 year average. Revisions in the degree to allow for different paths to the degree, one for chemistry students and one for biology students, will positively impact growth in degree completions and is a minima that the university, college, and program are monitoring.

Wichita State University Meeting Workforce Needs

Wichita State University's mission—as Kansas' only urban public research university—is grounded in expanding access, driving affordability, and advancing student success while fueling the state's talent pipeline and overall economic competitiveness. The university prioritizes applied learning, innovation, and industry collaboration, intentionally aligning academic programs and research activity with the workforce needs of Kansas' major sectors, including aerospace, advanced manufacturing, healthcare, education, digital transformation, and public safety. Wichita State's hands-on model is central to this mission. In 2025 alone, WSU students earned $39.2 million in paid applied-learning experiences, directly strengthening the Kansas workforce and providing graduates with the skills and industry connections needed for immediate impact. This career-ready emphasis ensures that programs across colleges—from engineering and health professions to business, criminal justice, and education—are tightly integrated with employer needs, helping sustain and grow the state's economic landscape.

Multiple Wichita State University programs identified in the AY2026 Program Review reflect this mission by playing a vital role in meeting Kansas's most pressing economic and workforce needs. WSU's long-standing alignment with the state's aviation, manufacturing, healthcare, education, and business sectors ensures its degree programs directly contribute to sustaining and expanding the Kansas economy. Engineering programs—including Aerospace, Mechanical, Industrial, Electrical, and Applied Engineering—support the state's globally significant aerospace and advanced manufacturing sectors through specialized workforce preparation and applied research. These programs maintain deep partnerships with major industry employers and research entities such as the National Institute for Aviation Research (NIAR), enabling students to engage in hands-on research that advances aviation safety, materials testing, manufacturing innovation, and emerging technologies central to Kansas's economic competitiveness.

Similarly, programs in the College of Health Professions—including Nursing, Dental Hygiene, Clinical Laboratory Science, Communication Sciences and Disorders, and other allied-health disciplines—respond directly to statewide workforce shortages in healthcare. Through extensive clinical partnerships and applied-learning requirements built into every program, WSU supplies

Kansas communities with practice-ready professionals who strengthen both rural and urban healthcare systems.

In business and public-service disciplines, programs such as Accounting, Finance, Management Information Systems, Criminal Justice, Social Work, and Education produce graduates who meet ongoing workforce demand across Kansas's economic and civic infrastructure—advancing cybersecurity and data systems, staffing school districts statewide, supporting social and community health, and preparing future leaders.

WSU's research enterprise further amplifies its contribution to Kansas's economic and innovative ecosystem. With annual research funding exceeding $600 million and more than 30 research centers and institutes, the university plays a national leadership role in fields essential to Kansas, including aeronautical research, bioscience, digital transformation, and applied economics. Wichita State ranks No. 1 in the nation in aerospace engineering R&D expenditures, and NIAR anchors a broad suite of public- and private-sector partnerships with industry, government, and defense that drive technological advancement, job creation, and economic growth across the state. Beyond aviation, interdisciplinary research spans areas such as archaeological preservation, environmental risk analysis, advanced materials, healthcare technology innovation, and digital systems transformation—delivering evidence-based solutions to challenges affecting Kansas communities.

This vibrant research culture, combined with WSU's applied-learning model, ensures students work alongside faculty and industry experts on meaningful, real-world projects that shape the future of discovery, innovation, and workforce readiness. Collectively, Wichita State's academic programs and robust research enterprise demonstrate the university's sustained commitment to advancing Kansas's workforce, fostering innovation, and meeting the state's critical economic needs.