An Abbreviated Graduate Program Review Process
(For Approved, Externally Accredited, Graduate Programs)

The most important objective of Graduate Program Review, an eight-year cyclical program review process, is to support faculty in their strategic planning toward graduate program improvement. Through a process guided by a self-study template, data from across the university, and feedback from internal and external review panels, it is the intention that faculty feel empowered to work in collaboration with their department chairs and college deans to develop a strategic action plan for further improving graduate programs.

Recognizing that faculty and staff representing externally accredited graduate programs often engage in an accreditation process that may closely resemble that described for Graduate Program Review, it is appropriate in these cases to provide an alternative process that ideally eliminates any redundant effort. Consequently, the following process was developed.

If you feel that one or more of your externally accredited graduate programs may be eligible for an abbreviated Graduate Program Review process, you are encouraged to submit a copy of your most recent accreditation report to the Graduate School’s director of program review and to your college dean. You will want to copy your department chair and associate dean for graduate studies as well. The Graduate School will compare the output from your program’s accreditation process to that from Graduate Program Review to assess similarities and determine whether an abbreviated program review process is appropriate. Your dean will assess other factors relevant to your college to determine whether an abbreviated graduate program review process is appropriate. If approved by both the Graduate School and your college dean, you may move immediately to the final stage of the Graduate Program Review process and generate a long-term action plan, in partnership with your college dean and aligned with Clemson’s strategic planning efforts (i.e., efforts related to ClemsonForward), aimed at further improving your graduate program(s). The concise action planning template, including signature lines for the graduate program coordinator, the department chair, and the college dean, will be provided by the Graduate School. Finally, if desired, the timeline for your abbreviated graduate program review can be aligned with your graduate program’s external accreditation cycle going forward.