






-  Degree programs in the department of Teacher Education were recently evaluated by DESE, Department of Secondary and Elementary Education using an assessment platform referred to as the APR, or Annual Performance Report, for educator preparation programs. All programs in which there was sufficient cell size, operationalize by 15 or more certification – eligible students in 2016, were evaluated using a variety of indicators. During that year Missouri Southern offered 23 certification programs and reported on a total of 502 certification candidates. There were five programs having 15 or more candidates in which a tier rank was awarded. We are very pleased that all of our programs were recognized in either tier 1 or tier 2, indicating the highest positive outcomes.
-  Within the last month MDHE has initiated a process known as Statewide Academic Program Review. MDHE is reviewing each CIP code - Classification of Instructional Programs (by discipline/specialization) - that leads to any form of credential and will request a review and explanation of programs that do not meet what is referred to as the degree level threshold for productivity. For baccalaureate level degrees, this threshold is an average of 10 graduates per year over the previous three years, and for masters degrees it is an average of five graduates over the previous three years. For each program identified as falling below this threshold, MDHE will request information about that program with the intent of determining program continuance or elimination. The first step in this process is to confirm the data the MDHE will be using, and to submit any discrepancies by the end of March. The entire process is expected to take six months to complete.
-  We are also in the middle of two other internal program review processes aimed at ensuring excellence in education. This year the Assessment Committee has been reviewing every single academic program to ensure optimal student learning. Each program submits documentation, which is reviewed by the committee, Then representatives from the department and the review committee meet to talk about opportunities for improvement. In addition, the Academic Program Review Committee conducts an in-depth review of the operational aspects of all programs not eligible for external accreditation on a rolling five year schedule. This year the program review committee is working on Theatre, Modern Languages, and Criminal Justice. These ongoing efforts to ensure excellence include a peer review process and are designed to be collegial, cooperative, and constructive.



Points of Pride

-  We have provided for each of you our most recent focus on faculty representing the collection of our scholarly and intellectual research productivity over the past year.
-  We are pleased to invite you to this semesters ITS Friday event, which will be hosted the afternoon of April 14th in the auditorium of the Justice Center. The featured presenter will be Dr. Linda Hand of the Mathematics Department. Dr. Hand is a most respected mathematician, world traveler, and accomplished crafts person.

- 🏛️ Our Nursing Department was recently recognized as being ranked 17th in the state of Missouri, which offers nearly 60 programs at the associate and baccalaureate level. This ranking in the top third places Missouri Southern above other four-year institutions including Missouri State University and Southeast Missouri (SEMO).
- 🏛️ It is with great pride that we announce that Dr. Elke Howe of the Industrial Engineering Technology Department will be recognized on April 5th with the Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, which will be presented in Jefferson City. She is a dedicated scholar, a respected department chair, and a well-known figure in the Joplin manufacturing community.
- 🏛️ Academic Affairs is gearing up for the continuance of our experimental academic signing events. We hosted one last year at Joplin High School, and have expanded that to two additional schools this year – Webb City and Carthage.
- 🏛️ Finally, in the Academic Policies Committee report, we will be presenting a variety of proposals and reports for your consideration that are intended to facilitate student success and graduation. Most notably we have implemented the 15 to Finish, 120 student credit hour graduation requirement, at the baccalaureate level. We are asking whenever possible, and allowed by accreditors and certification agencies, that all of our associate degree programs be reduced from 64 to 60 hours for completion.
- 🏛️ We will also be presenting for your consideration variety of proposals intended to advance our graduate degree offerings. The graduate council has made significant progress this year on a variety of critical issues, and we are building a strong foundation to offer graduate programs that are rigorous, robust, and valued by our students.