

Program Review Short Progress Report (updated 1/26/22)

PROGRAM REVIEW SHORT PROGRESS REPORT

1. **Reporting Institution** **Eastern Illinois University**
2. **Program Reviewed** **Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering**
3. **Date** **February 2, 2024**
4. **Contact Person** **Steven Daniels**
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5. Summary of Program Goals and Objectives and Progress at Meeting Goals (including any concerns identified at the conclusion of the last eight-year review):

The Electrical Engineering Program began admitting students in the fall semester of 2020. Graduates of this program will become Electrical Engineers, a high demand field that has continued growth potential.

The mission of the Electrical Engineering Program is to:

- a) Teach the theory and practice of electrical engineering to a diverse student body who will be prepared to craft satisfying careers and serve their communities and beyond.

Progress: Students are assessed throughout the classes in the program. Many of the classes have associated lab components and our professors teach the lab sections as well as the lecture sections (no grad assistants). Thus, the faculty are certainly able to assess all aspects of the student's development through direct observation of their technical abilities. They track theoretical knowledge as well as practical ability. Students also complete a capstone Senior Design Project where they further demonstrate their preparedness as Engineers with creativity, knowledge, and teamwork. This capstone culminates in an oral presentation.

- b) Discover, apply, and disseminate knowledge in the field to provide a state-of-the-art education to our students, offer appropriate outreach to our communities, and advance the field itself.

Progress: We have developed a research program that has supported summer student researchers. Those summer projects have resulted in presentations at national scientific conferences. The teaching labs for the program have also been continuously improved through the hard work of the faculty.

- c) Serve the local to global communities and their current and future engineering needs in an equitable and accessible manner.

Progress: Students that have graduated from the program are fully employed in their area and productive Electrical Engineers.

Administrative Support: A tenure track appointment was made to help with the new classes. There have been 9 new classes implemented for this program. These classes are the equivalent of 1 full time faculty member (37 CUs over 2 years). Previously taught classes also have higher enrollments leading to more sections and faculty time. A non-tenure track faculty appointment was also made and that position supports the internship program. Further faculty assistance exists on campus in the form of faculty with Engineering degrees, though they have only just begun teaching a class in the program. The operating budget for this program was proposed to IBHE to be \$8990 per year for the early years of the program. In fact, no new operating budget has been allocated to this program. In July we enter the 5th year of the program and at that time the IBHE plan for the program is to increase the current operating budget by \$8100. This money will be needed to support the equipment and projects involved in Electrical Engineering. There have been grants to support EE that were obtained by the Physics Department faculty.

Enrollment Numbers:

	FA 20	SP 21	FA 21	SP 22	FA 22	SP 23	FA 23	SP 24
Enrollment	8	8	19	18	26	26	30	31

As you can see, the enrollment continues to climb. The first students graduated in Spring 2023 and there were 3 in that class. One more graduated in Fall 2023. We expect 6 to graduate in Spring 2024. So the numbers are increasing on all fronts.

Comments from the College Dean:

Overall, the BS in Electrical Engineering is off to a great start. Presently (Spring 2024), there are 31 students enrolled and there has been steady growth since the program launched in Fall 2020. There are currently 4 alumni of the program who have obtained employment in the field of electrical engineering; six more students are slated for graduation in spring 2024. The program has developed an assessment plan that includes a senior capstone design project which is an effective method for students to demonstrate their knowledge and command of the discipline. Electrical Engineering is an anticipated further growth area of the College.

We recommend a decision of **Program in Good Standing**.

VPAA Decision:

- Program in good standing
- Program flagged for priority review
- Program enrollment suspended

VPAA Explanation:

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The summary above indicates solid growth since 2020 (8 students) in the number of enrolled students in the B.S. in Electrical Engineering program (now 31 students). The assessment process might be more descriptive in its tracking of students' (seemingly successful) progress through the program, from the lab sections through the Senior Design Project through placement in jobs after graduation.