

Lyman Briggs College Academic Program Review Executive Summary
LBC Academic Program Review Committee April 11, 2012

LBC has endeavored to become an inclusive residential science college that builds collaborations among our students, faculty, and staff, while helping students become lifelong learners, engaged citizens, and effective leaders. The 2012 Academic Program Review focused on three primary aspects of LBC: the Briggs curriculum, the Briggs experience, and the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. Across each of these dimensions, we identified what the college currently offers its students and alumni and how we promote inclusivity and embrace diversity. We also identified a variety of methods to enhance LBC in the upcoming years as we attempt to build upon our successes and strengthen our reputation.

Briggs Curriculum

LBC has been successful in developing a student-centered curriculum that employs a wide range of research-validated techniques known to improve student learning. Much of the recent work in improving the curriculum has focused on developing methods for less prepared students to more effectively engage in the LBC curriculum. The primary focus of improvement in the curriculum will be development of a comprehensive set of learning objectives for LBC graduates. We will then seek to assure alignment between individual courses and these college learning objectives and MSU's Liberal Learning Goals. This process will allow the faculty to identify those learning objectives that are not effectively addressed in our curriculum and make changes to better improve the course progression. A secondary goal will be to continue to improve the reputation of LBC through improved communication about the college's accomplishments. We currently have a very strong program that combines both STEM and HPS; however, LBC needs to become much better known on a national level.

Briggs Experience

The Briggs experience encompasses both formal classroom and laboratory work and a wide range of co-curricular activities and interactions. Although the specific activities vary from student to student, the Briggs experience includes engagement with a community of students, faculty, advisors, and staff and shared educational experiences. Beyond just the residential community, Briggs actively encourages students to engage in undergraduate research, study abroad programs, leadership, community service, and much more. In the upcoming years LBC will strive to strengthen our career and advanced-degree preparation components. In particular, we will seek to better inform our students about the full range of career possibilities in the sciences. One potential mechanism for this will be to connect current students with our alumni to discuss their career paths. This will have the secondary benefit of strengthening the ongoing relationship with our alumni beyond the financial dimension.

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

LBC provides a unique laboratory for science education research, and many Briggs faculty and staff have become active contributors to this field. This helps to keep LBC focused on its original mission of being educationally innovative. Over the upcoming years, LBC will continue to act as testing ground for educational experiments that can influence science education on campus, across the nation, and internationally. We anticipate that this will continue to lead to successful grant applications and subsequent publications. In this process we will seek partnerships with other entities focusing on science education across the campus and nation.