

Department Instructions:

Please answer the following questions about your department research programs. The responses to 10 questions must be completed within 10 single-sided pages.

1. **Reputation:** What areas of research is the department best known for by others (your current reputation – regional, national, international)? How does this reputation support our reputation at a Tier 1 Research University? Are these high reputation areas attracting major recognition from outside the university? If not, how can this be addressed?
2. **Strengths:** What do you declare as your current areas of research excellence, the department’s research strengths currently in the discipline? Are these areas recognized and supported by external resources (research funding)? If not, why is this so? How can this be addressed?
3. **Weaknesses:** For your discipline, what is the department’s research weaknesses, gaps that are not covered, yet you consider essential for the future success of your department? How would you modify current internal resources (personnel, space, time, funding, etc.) to start addressing these weaknesses?
4. **Opportunities:** Where is your discipline moving towards in the future area of research? What are the new research trends in the field? What do the best departments of research in the country look like in this discipline? What are the department’s research opportunities? How will you be unique and recognized? How will you change to take more advantage of these opportunities? What do you need to take advantage of these?
5. **Concerns/Obstacles:** Time is always a limiting factor and there is never enough of it. Beyond time, what are the major research threats to fulfilling the department’s vision of research excellence which can be significantly recognized and supported with external resources?
6. **Additions:** What areas of research in the department will need to be added, enhanced, expanded, or strengthened to be recognized as a leading department in your discipline? Given changes in your discipline, which areas of research in the department are likely to be less essential in your future in a 15-20-year timeframe?

7. **Partners/Stakeholders:** What opportunities exist to obtain guidance and resources to support research outside of the University? How do you plan to pursue? How can you use your advisory board, industry relationships, professional organizations, foundations, and alumni to generate external support?
8. **Hires:** Knowing the faculty that you must have in place to carry out the department's research goals, what future faculty hires, critical to research, in order of importance in the department, will be necessary to position the department as a recognized leader in its discipline? Create very brief, two-sentence, program descriptions for each position.
9. **Colleagues:** What are the cross-cutting research topics that need to be addressed through partnerships with other disciplines? How would the department benefit from partnerships/interaction with other units (be as specific as possible)? Would reaching the department's research goals be helped by key new hires in other departments? Who? What? Be as specific as possible. Should any of these hires be considered for joint appointments in your department?
10. **Facilities:** What facilities need upgrades and improvements to position your research programs for success in the future including attracting outside resources? Similarly, what brand-new facilities should be added to the department to ensure its success in achieving world-class status of the research programs?