



DEAN'S RESPONSE TO PROGRAM REVIEW
BS and MS Chemistry
College of Science

The purpose of the Dean's Response is to highlight the strengths and opportunities within the program, aiding the prioritization of the program's action plan. It allows the dean to offer support to the program, identify common interests across programs within the college and Cal Poly Pomona, and connect relevant resources on- and off-campus. Encapsulating these efforts helps align priorities for continuous improvement, and attempts to meet identified resource needs.

Dates of External Review: March 3 and 4, 2025 (in-person)

External Reviewers: Alison McCurdy (CSU-Los Angeles), Nicholas Salzameda (CSU-Fullerton), and Craig Aspinwall (U. Arizona)

Date of Internal Review: February 20, 2025

Internal Reviewers: Heather Taylor (CEIS) and Hao Ji (Science)

Meeting date with department chair(s):

Key Strengths of the Program. *Provide a list of the top (5 or less) program strengths. Further details are only necessary if they are absent from the self-study, external review report, internal review report, or department response.*

As noted by the reviewers, the department has an inclusive culture and provides its majors with significant hands-on laboratory experience to prepare them for industry and/or post-graduate work. Such experiences are supported by well-maintained instrumentation (e.g., HPLC, NMR, XRD), as well as faculty with funded research programs who provide strong mentorship. There is also an organized structure for assessment coordinated by the Associate Chair, where closing-the-loop strategies have been put into place.

Priorities for Action. *Provide a prioritized list of the top (5 or less) areas of improvement for the program. Further details are only necessary if they are absent from the self-study, external review report, internal review report, or department response.*

The short- and long-term priorities of the action plan were discussed with the dean's office and are supported. One of the highest priority actions is to hire tenure-track faculty in organic chemistry and biochemistry, areas that have seen the loss of faculty and a growth in demand. The department would also like to update their curriculum with a track in Cosmetic and Natural Product Chemistry, which should attract a broader group of students and will leverage the recent purchase of a state-of-art mass spectrometer. The development of an Industrial Advisory Board is another high priority in order to expand opportunities for students to find internships and job placements. Finally, the modernization of laboratory facilities (e.g., fume hoods, chemical storage) is a critical priority for the department in order to maintain the strength of their teaching and research programs.

Additional Comments *(optional):*

The state of chemistry laboratory rooms located in Bldg. 3 (built early 1960's, some renovation) and Bldg. 8 (built mid-1970's) are of primary concern. Only two fume hoods in Bldg. 8 have been added/upgraded over the past fifty years, resulting in insufficient capacity for teaching labs that meet modern standards. On a positive note, EH&S recently provided support with safety shower/eyewash station certification and a cost-effective upgrade of vacuum systems has been completed.

Dean's Name: Alison Baski

Dean's Signature: Alison Baski

Date: 12/15/2025