



WNMU

COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
School of Allied Health
Rehabilitation Services Program

2016-2017 Program Efficiency and Enhancement Review ***Rehabilitation Services Program***

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Rehabilitation Services Program Goals and Mission

There are an estimated 40 million people (12.6%) who live with some form of disability in the United States. The WNMU Rehabilitation Services program is a specialized allied health program that emphasizes the issues, experiences, and needs of individuals and families with disabilities. While our courses highlight scholarly research, theories, and applications that foster critical thinking, the Rehabilitation Services curriculum also prepares students with the knowledge and technical skills necessary to be highly qualified rehabilitation services providers in the rapidly growing healthcare and human services industry.

This program was created to offer an online multidisciplinary baccalaureate degree in Rehabilitation Services that fills the void of qualified bilingual and multiculturally competent professionals across the US. Since its inception, the program has emphasized the recruitment of students from underrepresented populations, specifically individuals from Hispanic and Native American backgrounds, individuals with disabilities, and the growing population of non-traditional students. Upon completion of the program, graduates will be prepared to enter a wide range of State and Federal rehabilitation settings, public and private rehabilitation agencies, and/or graduate rehabilitation counselor education. The program has been registered with the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) since 2009. Beginning July 2017, the WNMU Rehabilitation Services program will be registered with the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Education Programs (CACREP) as a nationally recognized undergraduate preparatory program for counseling and related graduate programs.

The Rehabilitation Services program was created to serve many groups of students and programs. In addition to serving rehabilitation services majors and minors, the program also serves the kinesiology program, the occupational therapy assistant (OTA) program, and the nursing program with its popular medical terminology course (RHAB 340).

Lastly, the baccalaureate degree provides students with a solid foundation in a liberal arts education, as well as breadth and depth within the field of rehabilitation. The Rehabilitation Services Bachelor of Applied Sciences degree program prepares students for advanced academic study, professional training, and employment in a wide range of fields, including health and human services, research, and law, among many others. To meet the applied sciences requirements a student must take an upper division statistics class and one other science course outside of their general education requirements.

Program Productivity and Efficiency

The tables and figures below illustrate the impressive growth in the Rehabilitation Services program over the past few years. Further evident is the sustained productivity and increasing efficiency of the program despite challenges faced by the University and imposed upon the program (e.g. budget and faculty cuts).

A. Major Headcount Enrollment

Table 1. 2012-2017 Major Head Count by Year/Enrollment

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Total	63	47	60	74	85

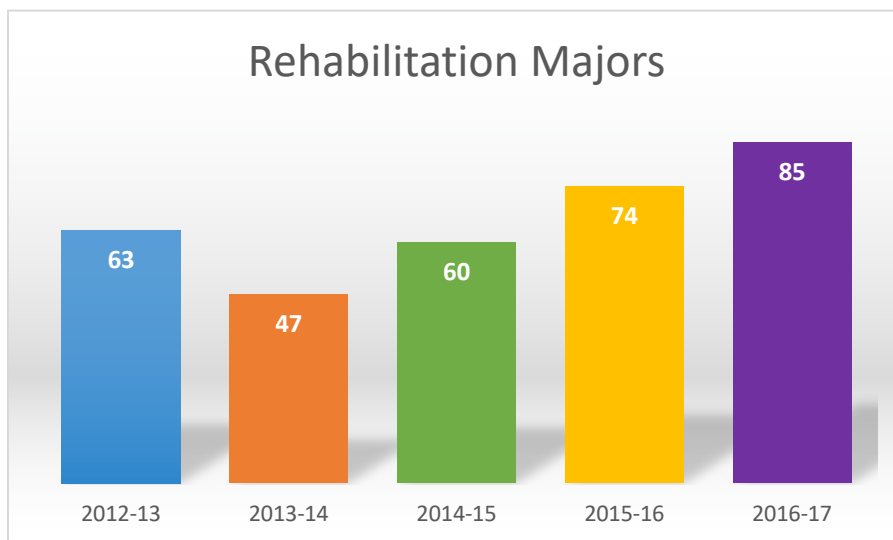
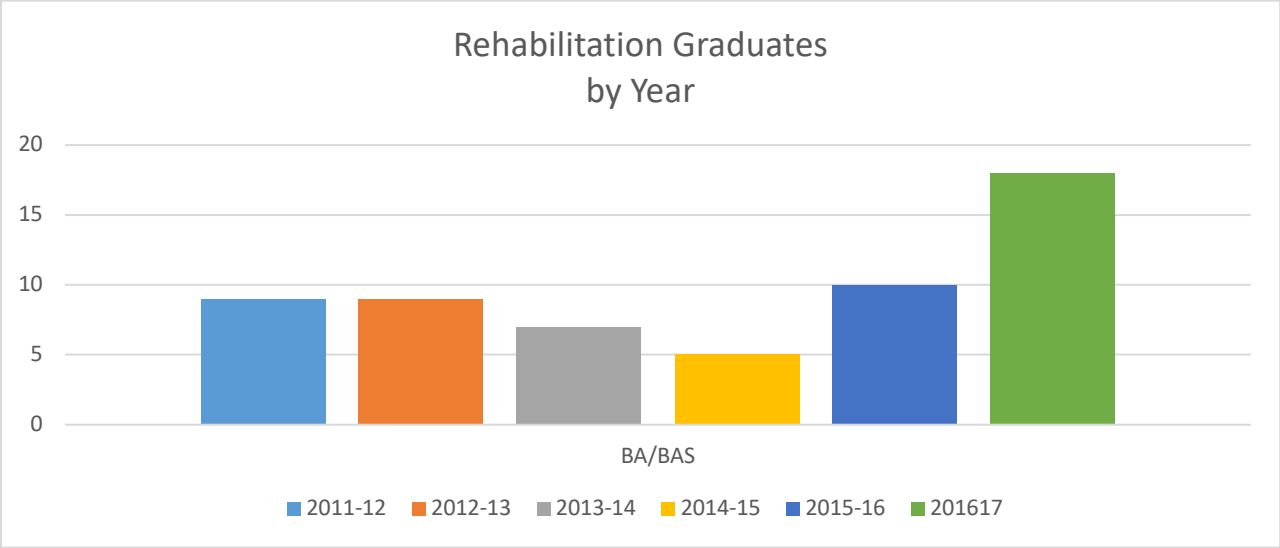


Figure 1. Rehabilitation Services Major Head Count

B. Degrees Conferred

Table 2. 2011-2017 Degrees Awarded in Rehabilitation Services

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
BA/BAS	9	9	7	5	10	18



C. Credit Hour Production

A University-wide downturn in enrollment since AY 2014-15 (see Figure 3) has affected credit hour production (CHP) for many programs across campus. Also, in response to anticipated budget cuts, Rehabilitation Service courses/sections that have consistently exceeded minimum capacity were arbitrarily cut during mid-enrollment for Spring 17 apparently reducing costs incurred by adjuncts and over-loads. Despite these and other barriers the Rehabilitation Services program has steadily increased in credit hour production since AY 2014-15 (see Figure 3). Furthermore, the CHP for the current year is at a record high since the inauguration of the program.

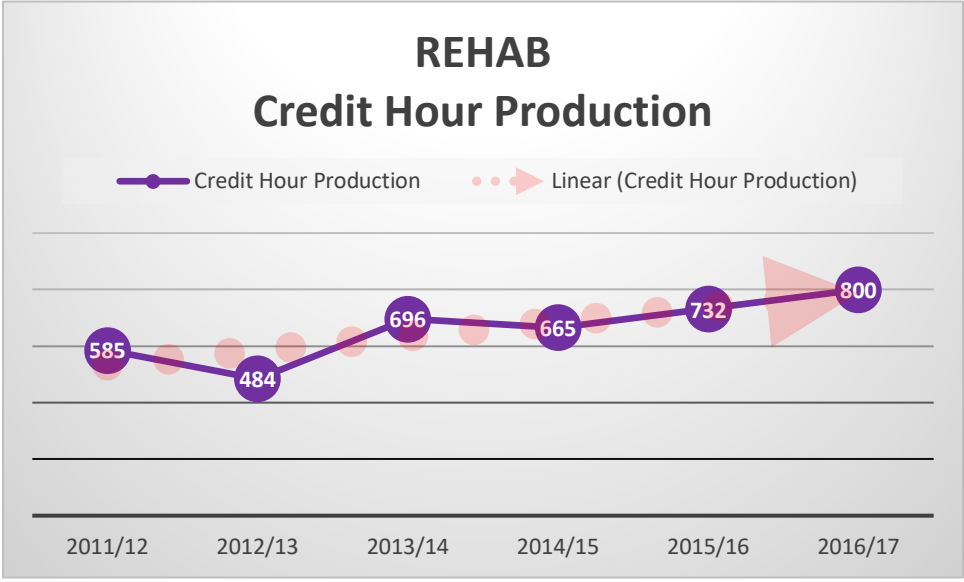


Figure 2. Rehabilitation Services Credit Hour Production

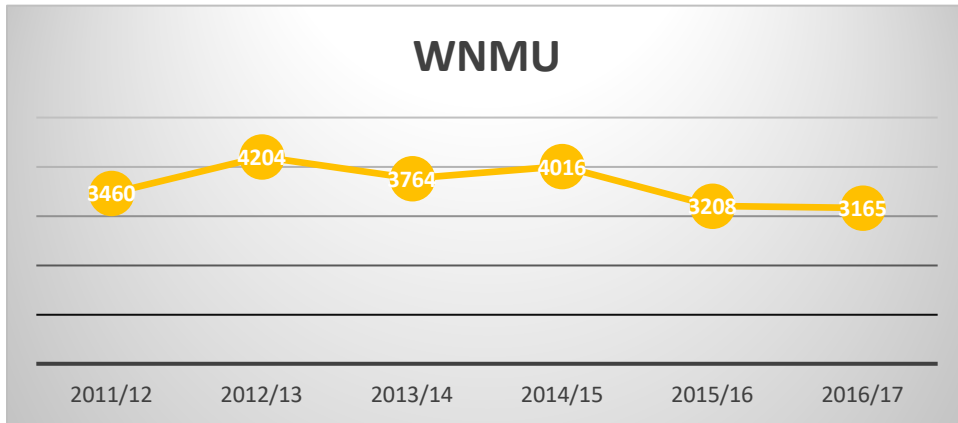


Figure 3. WNMU Credit Hour Production

D. Program Revenues

Table 3. FY2016-17 Credit Hour Production and Revenue/Cost Difference by Rehab Faculty

Faculty	Actual Head Count	Credit Hour Production	Income/Cost Difference
Jenkins	218	653	\$78,563.70
Adjunct1	38	114	\$25,773.84*
Adjunct2	53	159	\$36,824.04*
Total			\$141,161.58

*Adjunct overhead costs are not available to be factored into these figures.

At this point, the Rehabilitation Services program is making profit for the University despite budget cuts to the program and other departments that support the program (e.g. Online Learning/Extended University). Using the 2015-2016 Budget and Revenue Report generated by Donna Rees, we are able to present the estimated revenue (i.e., total tuition generated based on credit hour production) of the sole full-time Rehabilitation Services faculty and adjuncts generated after deducting salaries, benefits (estimated as 37% of salaries), and overhead costs (estimated as 26% of salaries) in Table 3 above.

E. Average Class Size

As mentioned earlier, there was a significant decrease in student enrollment in 2015-2016 that negatively impacted the University's overall outcome. Nevertheless, in response to increased demand in Rehabilitation Services courses and decreased funds purportedly available for adjuncts/overloads, all maximum course capacity limits were increased to 50, resulting in a dramatic increase in average class size this year (59%; see Figure 4).

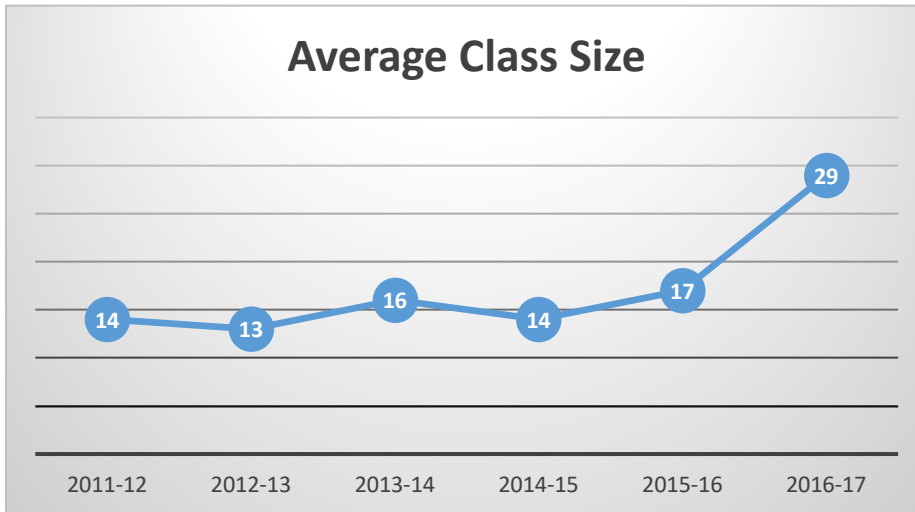


Figure 4. Average Rehabilitation Services Class Size

Our Next Steps

Seeing the steady growth in program enrollment and continued budget cuts on the horizon for the University, the Rehabilitation Services program will continue to employ state-of-the-art online teaching techniques such as inquiry-based learning, peer evaluation, and objective-based curriculum design. These and other innovations will allow for increasing course capacities with fewer faculty resources without compromising the high quality of instruction rehab students have come to expect.

The Rehabilitation Services program is also investigating the idea of offering the core curriculum in eight-week formats allowing students to complete the core courses within a single semester. This format would dramatically increase program capacity as well as program completion while decreasing cost per credit hour for WNMU and decreasing the average time to completion.

In addition, the Rehabilitation Services program at WNMU is being considered for inclusion in the national Area Healthcare Education Centers (AHEC) scholars program. This would provide scholarship funds for Rehabilitation Services majors interested in pursuing healthcare careers within the Southwest region of New Mexico.

Lastly (and relatedly), within the next year, the Rehabilitation Services program is investigating the expansion of its curriculum to promote rural healthcare and human services by offering endorsed community health worker (promotora) training which offers state certification by the New Mexico Office of Community Health Workers.