that external evaluators are drawn from a university of similar or greater Carnegie Foundation rank to IUP (i.e., Doctoral Research University). Programs must disclose any affiliations that any members of the program might have with the proposed reviewers, and avoid potential conflicts of interest, such as joint publications, personal friendships, etc.

Additional IUP guidelines state that external reviewers may be 1) from a peer institution, 2) from an aspirational institution, or 3) a person who is outstanding in the field of study and has had administrative level experience. It is strongly recommended that programs choose a reviewer who comes from a different category (1,2 or 3) than the external evaluator who assisted with their previous five-year review.