Your program faculty have now gathered and analyzed a lot of data points. Well done! This section asks you to take what you have learned from your work of assessment and program review and look to the future.

First, reflect and report on what your department learned as a result of all your assessment work and program review.

Second, in light of what you’ve learned, what changes have you made or do you intend to pursue?

Consider a big picture. What is your vision for the department seven or ten years from now? Identify the changes you have made or plan to make as a department in light of what you have learned. These could include modest changes, such as adjustments to courses or curriculum, as well as bigger dreams that would require substantial institutional support. It would be ideal to have a list of changes that includes items that span this range; this information will be used later for drafting your Action Plan. Departments should be aware that, given limited resources, applying for significant additional resources from the institution is akin to applying for a grant. Strong proposals will be grounded in thorough analysis of the program, its budget, and clear evidence for the need. As with grants, however, you may receive what you asked for or you may not. Your vision for the future and the changes you plan to make should not be largely dependent on hitting the jackpot.

As part of this first section, you should also look at your department’s mission and vision statements. In light of what you have found through your program review, are they still relevant and appropriate?

Use your findings and reflections for listing the items that might be included in your Action Plan and Multi-Year Assessment Plan. This section also includes a first draft of Key Questions for your next review cycle. Departments are not expected to include details of Seven-Year Program Review Report elements in the Action Plan.