

SECTION A—DEVELOPING A PROGRAM PLAN WHEN YOU HAVE NOT COMPLETED PROGRAM REVIEW**II. Strengths and Weaknesses**

Indicate the program's internal strengths and weaknesses. The **strengths** of the program are **internal** issues that make the program stronger or unique, or are sources of pride to the program. The **weaknesses** of the program are **internal** issues that affect the program's performance negatively.

Consider the following questions:

1. What are the program's strengths?
2. What are the program's weaknesses?
3. What changes are necessary to improve the program, or is it "good enough as-is"?

IV. Opportunities and Challenges

Indicate the program's external opportunities and challenges. The **opportunities** of the program are those **external** factors, independent of your program, which you might choose to pursue. Opportunities are things that will give you the ability to further your mission, improve your performance, expand your program, etc. Conversely, the **challenges** of the program are those **external** factors that are out of your control, which threaten your program negatively.

Consider the following questions:

1. Has the nature of what the program deals with changed over the last five years? For example, automation, changes in regulatory laws, and/or new developments in the subject matter of the program.
2. What recommendations have been made to the program by other programs or outside agencies? For example, did the last Accreditation report make any comments about the program? Were there any recommendations for the program from an advisory committee?
3. Are there any new Accreditation Standards that the program will need to address? If so, what are they and what opportunities or challenges will the standards provide the program?

Note: Prior to the 2004-05 planning cycle, the characteristics, strengths, and opportunities and challenges sections were lumped into one section. They now have been separated to help the Planning Team focus on and consider each topic.