

Focusing the Campus on Institutional-Wide Learning Goals

6/9/03

DESCRIPTION

Our intent is to refocus the campus on university-wide learning goals in order to further student learning. If we were able to capture the best assessment practices within specific academic units, then we could formulate a plan to identify and facilitate alignment with these goals across the institution.

RELATED AQIP CRITERIA

Primary: Helping Students Learn

Secondary: Leading and Communicating

Secondary: Measuring Effectiveness

RELATED AQIP PRINCIPLES

Learning A learning centered environment

Collaboration Collaboration and a shared institutional focus

Information Fact-based evidence gathering and thinking to support analysis and decision making

RATIONALE

Current alignment with goals occurs and outcome measures are held at the unit level. The processes necessary for the successful achievement of goals and the dissemination of information regarding alignment and outcomes need to be defined and deployed throughout the university.

AREAS AFFECTED

This action plan will affect all academic departments and instructional areas. This scope extends to student and faculty academic support services including but not limited to faculty development, computing services, student advising, institutional research, career services, the writing laboratory, library, human resources, and student government.

PROCESSES AFFECTED

1. New program development
2. University policy development
3. Curriculum development and instructional design
4. Assessment

5. Faculty appointment, development, training, and evaluation
6. Student admission counseling, advising, tutoring, and financial aid
7. Institutional research

PROCESS MEASURES

1. Collection of current levels of assessment of student learning
2. Collection of statements of alignment with learning goals
3. Identification of current reporting structures and data about student learning

OUTCOME MEASURES

1. The extent of the publication or the number of activities referencing institutional learning goals
2. The extent of activity designed to align goals with course evaluations (IDEA)
3. Documentation of the range of activity related to campus-wide learning goals
4. Documentation of revisions to unit assessment plans
5. Ascertainment of levels of awareness and application of institutional learning goals

Plans for Year One – May 2003-2004

1. Development of action plan team
2. Review and revision of University-wide Learning Goals
 - a. incorporating other goal and objective documents
 - b. update to reflect outcomes orientation over program-centered goals
 - c. connect the review with current assessment and available data
3. Development and implementation of methodology for collecting assessment materials
4. Initiate Portfolio on primary AQIP criteria

Plans for Year Two-May 2004-2005

1. Analysis of current inventory of assessment practices
 - a. Identification of articulated goals to which unit assessments are directed
 - b. Comparison of articulated unit goals with existing university learning goals
 - c. Report of results of comparison
2. Convening campus conversation on goal alignment
 - a. Areas of commonality
 - b. Areas of dissimilarity
3. Initiate Portfolio on secondary AQIP criteria

Plans for Year Three – May 2005-2006

1. Identification of methodologies for generating data about student learning
2. Identification of data that has been generated
3. Survey of improvements based on results
4. Dissemination of results and campus conversation

5. Refine and complete primary and secondary AQIP criteria for Portfolio

MAINTAIN FOCUS

The action plan sub-committee will meet monthly to report to the Campus AQIP Committee. Update reports will be disseminated to the campus community. Programming opportunities via faculty/staff development sessions will be utilized to share best practice ideas.

LEVEL OF PUBLICITY

Campus-wide announcements will be made regarding special reporting and development sessions. University print and electronic media services will alert campus personnel to register for and to attend meetings related to the student learning action plan.