

Assessment of Student Learning in Degree Program-level Assessment Summary of Suggested Roles and Responsibilities at WSU

1. Chair/Director Responsibilities for Program Assessment

- Provide leadership and oversight for assessment of each degree program (see *EPPM*); supervise the delivery and assessment of the department's curriculum (see *Provost's Guidelines for Chairs*) on all campuses
- Communicate the value of assessment to the department/school; articulate goals/questions and priorities; use assessment to address questions or issues
- Implement and resource a sustainable assessment plan, including all campuses
- Ensure student learning outcomes are reviewed and published (department website and catalog)
- Involve undergraduate and graduate studies or curriculum (or similar committee) and all campuses
- Regularly review and share assessment results for discussion; disaggregate as needed; include assessment data in department's decision-making; address campus-specific topics with campus leadership, including academic directors
- Report on assessment annually; distribute annual report to ATL, Dean/Associate Dean, and campus contacts
- Ensure infrastructure so assessment data and documents are regularly archived, with appropriate data stewardship and access to department members on all campuses
- Coordinate assessment in interdisciplinary programs that involve the department
- Recognize assessment in workload and in AR; support faculty development in assessment

2. Faculty Assessment Coordinator

- Implement degree program's assessment plan; coordinate assessment efforts and logistics with broad faculty participation across all campuses
- Liaise with support offices, chair and departmental committee, and faculty groups
- Analyze data and prepare results for discussion by chair, faculty and curriculum committee
- Report out on assessment annually; act as data steward for assessment results and documents
- Develop a working knowledge of good practices in assessment in the discipline
- Note: Additional effort and support is typically needed for interdisciplinary program assessment coordinated among departments and campuses.

3. Faculty Participation in Program Assessment

- Participate in assessment activities (e.g., develop learning outcomes, collect student work, score student work for program outcomes, interpret results)
- Situate own courses in the curriculum to support student achievement of degree outcomes at graduation
- Discuss and act on assessment results
- May participate similarly in assessment for UCORE and for interdisciplinary programs

4. Dean / Associate Dean Responsibilities for Program Assessment

- Provide overall leadership and oversight of program assessment in the college
- Communicate the value of assessment in the college and articulate goals/questions and priorities
- Recognize assessment roles and responsibilities in workload and in AR for chairs, faculty and staff
- Ensure effective assessment of student learning college-wide and assessment of WSU 7 Learning Goals
- Identify needs and allocate resources to build and sustain assessment at all levels, and archives
- Use assessment data in college's decision-making and strategic planning; ensure follow up to assessment

5. Support & Resources

Undergraduate Programs: Office of Assessment of Teaching and Learning (ATL)

- Consult and support undergraduate programs, colleges and campuses to implement assessment of student learning, analyze data, and share results for decisions about curriculum and instruction.
- Build undergraduate assessment capacity and systems at WSU; provide faculty development and training; review literature and share good practices for assessment activities and innovation.
- Report annually to the Provost, Deans/Associate Deans and campuses, and to support university accreditation. Manage annual undergraduate reporting and summaries and document systems.

Graduate Programs: The Graduate School manages assessment reporting and review for graduate programs and provides information and data for program review.

Selected Accreditation Standards for Academic Degree Programs Under Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities

Standards for WSU's continuing accreditation include these requirements:

- **Learning Outcomes.** Identify and publish expected course, program, and degree student learning outcomes. Expected student learning outcomes for courses, wherever offered and however delivered, are provided in written form to enrolled students. (Eligibility Requirement 22 and 2.C.2)
- **Curriculum.** Ensure that degree programs demonstrate a coherent design with appropriate breadth, depth, sequencing of courses, and synthesis of learning. (2.C.4)
- **Faculty Roles.**
 - Faculty exercise a major role in the design, approval, implementation, and revision of the curriculum. (2.C.5)
 - Faculty with teaching responsibilities, in partnership with library and information resources personnel, ensure that the use of library and information resources is integrated into the learning process. (2.C.6)
 - Faculty with teaching responsibilities are responsible for evaluating student achievement of learning outcomes. (4.A.3)
 - Faculty have a primary role in the evaluation of educational programs and services. (4.A.2)
- **Assessment.** Document through an effective, regular, and comprehensive system of assessment of student achievement, that students who complete its educational courses, programs, and degrees, wherever offered and however delivered, achieve identified course, program, and degree learning outcomes. (4.A.3)
- **Use of Assessment Results and Constituencies.** Use the results of assessment of student learning to inform academic and learning-support planning and practices that lead to enhancement of student learning achievements. Make results of student learning assessments available to appropriate constituencies in a timely manner. (4.B.2)
- **Review assessment processes.** Regularly review its assessment processes to ensure they appraise authentic achievements and yield meaningful results that lead to improvement. (4.A.6)

NWCCU Recommendations for WSU, 2013

Excerpt from WSU's accreditation reaffirmation letter, July 18, 2013:

1. **Faculty responsibility / assessment includes online degrees.** The evaluation committee recommends that Washington State University's academic programs continue to strengthen collective faculty responsibility for fostering and assessing student achievement of learning outcomes and ensure that student learning outcome information from online programs and courses are consistently included in assessment processes. (Standard 2.C.5)
2. **SLO summary data contributes to mission fulfillment.** The evaluation committee recommends that the University incorporate student learning outcomes summary information into the evaluation of overall mission fulfillment. (Standard 1.B.2)