

Assessment Committee 3/2/2011 meeting report

Committee member attendance was not recorded.

The meeting focused on review of assessment documents which had been submitted in TaskStream.

***Environmental Studies M.S. Curriculum map**

Thank you for submitting the curriculum map. The assessment committee had the following questions and suggestions aimed at making the map more useful.

- 1) Some courses were not listed as not covering any outcomes. If those courses do, in fact, deal with the outcomes in some way, it would be appropriate to include the outcomes in the map.
- 2) When assessment for an outcome is listed in a map, it would indicate that the department plans to provide assessment data for that outcome, from that course, to the entire program. (This would be in addition to the assessment associated with assigning a student a grade.) Is that really the intent? It seems as though that would place a large burden of collecting and analyzing data on the faculty.
- 3) One aim of the curriculum mapping is to assure that any student, regardless of which electives he or she might chose, would address all of the student learning outcomes. Therefore, it would be helpful if the courses that are not required for all students are either grouped as sets of electives, or associated with a particular emphasis.

If further clarification is needed, please let me know, and I can have a member of the assessment committee work with you.

Physical Education, Health, and Sport:

B.S. in Physical Education student learning outcomes.

Well done, thank you for the submission

B.S. in Physical Education self-study

Very clear, good assessment, good connections between assessment and changes in courses and the program as a whole.

M.S. Sports Studies self-study

As the program is planned to be closed, we do not have any comments on the self-study.

*B.S. in Health Self-Study

Much of the assessment data referenced Community Health, but that document was not available to the committee

B.S. in Exercise Science Self-Study

Very good, thank you for the submission. We noticed a slightly different mission statement, as compared to the mission statement for other programs in the department, and would ask you to review that.

*Sports Management Self-Study

Thank you for the detailed submission. In the section on assessment findings, the committee was not clear what the numbers meant, and what assessments they were derived from.

In the section “Changes based on Assessment Findings” we were not clear how the changes connected with the assessment data.

Exercises Science Assessment Plan and Findings:

Overall, these looked good. Next year, we would ask the department to more carefully review the measures listed, and focus on the actual assessments, rather than a description of what will be assessed.

Biology:

M.S. in Biology assessment plan:

Thank you for the submission. The committee felt the plan was well done. For next year, we would ask that you include the rubric(s) with your submission.

B.S. in Life Science assessment plan:

The committee appreciated your submission. While the group did not feel the department needed to re-submit the plan, we make the following suggestions when doing a plan again next year. Derek Webb would be available to provide advice about statistics and the conceptual framework for testing, if that would be helpful.

- 1) We would suggest including the Praxis/MTLE scores in your assessment. This would provide a nationally-normed data set that students are already taking as part of their program and since the department doesn't need to administer the test, it should not be very time-consuming to include this.
- 2) While a pre and post test can be a valuable assessment tool, there were concerns raised about the details. In several cases, the number of questions being used to assess an area was small (two or four questions), and it wasn't clear that would provide adequate data to allow the department to decide whether a change in content, pedagogy, or something else was required. Also, most of the assessment seemed focused on knowledge. Is that accurate? If so, the committee suggests the department have some further conversation about whether some higher order skills should be

assessed to a greater extent. Finally, much of the assessment is focused at the freshman level. The department may want to consider more assessment in the final years of a student's program.

3) For next year, it would be helpful if the rubric(s) were included with the assessment plan submission.

B.S. in Aquatic Biology Assessment Plan

The same comments in relation to points 2 and 3, above.

1) While a pre and post test can be a valuable assessment tool, there were concerns raised about the details. In several cases, the number of questions being used to assess an area was small (two or four questions), and it wasn't clear that would provide adequate data to allow the department to decide whether a change in content, pedagogy, or something else was required. Also, most of the assessment seemed focused on knowledge. Is that accurate? If so, the committee suggests the department have some further conversation about whether some higher order skills should be assessed to a greater extent. Finally, much of the assessment is focused at the freshman level. The department may want to consider more assessment in the final years of a student's program.

2) For next year, it would be helpful if the rubric(s) were included with the assessment plan submission.

B.S. in Clinical Laboratory Science

Again, similar comments regarding pre-and post testing and the number of questions used to assess various areas.

The committee encourages the use of scores on the NCCLS examination as an additional assessment of way evaluating the preparation the program provides in relation to the different areas tested.

Geography:

Mission Statement- looks fine

Student learning outcomes- Thank you for the submission. These outcomes look like they will help you develop effective measures in your assessment plan.

*Curriculum Map:

Good start. The only concern was that outcome 3 was not addressed or assessed. Therefore, the committee would ask you to re-submit to address that concern.

Political Science- Self Study:

Looked good- thank you for considering comments from the committee and making revisions. The committee would encourage you to keep the proposed changes in mind, and include an evaluation of how these changes affect student learning during the next five year assessment cycle.