

**UNIVERSITY ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE**  
**Feedback to Academic Departments on Assessment Activities Reported in 2008-09 Annual Reports**  
**GRADUATE PROGRAMS**

**DEPARTMENT** Educational Foundations & Research **DATE** 4-8-10

**COMMITTEE MEMBER(S) CONDUCTING REVIEW** Cassie Gerhardt & Ruth Paur

**1. STUDENT LEARNING GOALS**

- |                                       |              |                |                           |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| • Were any goals referenced?          | YES <u>X</u> | NO <u>    </u> | QUALIFIED Y/N <u>    </u> |
| • If so, were goals well articulated? | YES <u>X</u> | NO <u>    </u> | QUALIFIED Y/N <u>    </u> |
| • Do goals address student learning?  | YES <u>X</u> | NO <u>    </u> | QUALIFIED Y/N <u>    </u> |

*Comments:* The department's five goals are well articulated and emphasize a variety of learning outcomes.

**2. ASSESSMENT METHODS**

- |  |              |                |                           |
|--|--------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Were any specific assessment methods referenced?   | YES <u>X</u> | NO <u>    </u> | QUALIFIED Y/N <u>    </u> |
| • If so, were specifically chosen assessment methods appropriately aligned with individual goals?        | YES <u>X</u> | NO <u>    </u> | QUALIFIED Y/N <u>    </u> |
| • Were both direct and indirect assessment methods used as components of a "multiple measures" approach? | YES <u>X</u> | NO <u>    </u> | QUALIFIED Y/N <u>    </u> |

*Comments:* The department indicates assessment methods specific to each of the five learning goals. Assessment methods include both direct and indirect methods and each learning goal is assessed through multiple methods. One assessment method listed for each of the learning goals is "external assessment review". The report is not clear as to how an "external assessment review" is facilitated or who is involved in an "external assessment review". A description of the "external review assessment" would further an understanding of the department's assessment methods.

**3. ASSESSMENT RESULTS**

- |  |                 |             |                           |
|--|-----------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| Were any assessment results reported?  | YES <u>    </u> | NO <u>X</u> | QUALIFIED Y/N <u>    </u> |
| • If so, were the results clear in terms of how they specifically affirm achievement of goals? | YES <u>    </u> | NO <u>X</u> | QUALIFIED Y/N <u>    </u> |
| • If so, were the results clear in terms of how they indicate need for improvement?            | YES <u>    </u> | NO <u>X</u> | QUALIFIED Y/N <u>    </u> |
| • Were the results tied to goals for student learning?   | YES <u>    </u> | NO <u>X</u> | QUALIFIED Y/N <u>    </u> |

*Comments:* No assessment results or data were provided, but instead an expanded description of assessment methods was included.

#### 4. CLOSING THE LOOP

Were any actions taken on the basis of assessment results reported?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO X QUALIFIED Y/N \_\_\_\_\_

- If so, do curricular or other improvements/changes arising from assessment results directly address goals for student learning?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO X QUALIFIED Y/N \_\_\_\_\_

*Comments:* The report did not include any closing the loop activities.

#### SUMMARY

##### *Strengths*

- X A specific plan for assessment is in place.
- X Student learning goals are well-articulated.
- X Assessment methods are clearly described.
- X Assessment methods are appropriately selected.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Assessment methods are well-implemented.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Direct and indirect methods are implemented.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Results are reported.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Results are tied to closing the loop.  
(Decision-making is tied to evidence.)

##### *Areas for Improvement*

- \_\_\_\_\_ No specific plan for assessment is in place.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Student learning goals are not well-articulated.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Assessment methods are not clearly described.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Assessment methods are not appropriately selected.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Assessment methods are not well-implemented.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A single type of assessment methods predominates.
- X No results are reported.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Results are not clearly tied to closing the loop.  
(Decision-making is not directly tied to evidence.)

#### OVERALL SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The report indicates thoughtful learning goals and assessment methods, but does not include any assessment results. If implemented, the stated assessment methods would likely contribute valuable assessment data regarding student learning and the department's specific learning goals. At this point it is recommended that the department implement their stated assessment methods and/or report the data from the implemented assessment methods.

#### MATERIALS REVIEWED

- X Annual report
- \_\_\_\_\_ Appendices (cited in annual report)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other (please describe)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Assessment plan (as posted)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Previous assessment review

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Section 1: Y Section 2: Y Section 3: N Section 4: N

#### Coding Key:

- Y = yes, this is done appropriately and well
- N = no, this is not done at all, or it is not done in relationship to student learning
- NA = no information available
- ? = action or progress is apparent; however, evidence is lacking that this is completely and appropriately done