

AUNE Office of Academic Assessment
2010-11 Status Report
February 6, 2012

The Office of Academic Assessment was established in July 2010 to foster student learning through the systematic process of gathering and analyzing information. AUNE academic programs submit annual Program Reviews reporting on assessment activity. All programs have established procedures for collecting evidence of program effectiveness and make decisions based on that evidence. Program effectiveness is assessed through a variety of measures including:

- Course/instructor evaluations,
- Student surveys,
- Focus groups with students,
- Off-site supervisor evaluations,
- Student papers and projects,
- Student exit interviews, and
- Alumni surveys.

Assessment results show that much is working in AUNE programs. Students' self-reporting and faculty assessment of student work indicates that overall students are making substantial professional and personal gains as a result of their AUNE experience. That said, there are always ways to improve. Every department is working to close the loop between collecting evidence of student learning and making program-level decisions. For example:

- The Applied Psychology/Clinical Mental Health and Counseling program reviewed randomly sampled student portfolios, student evaluation records, student surveys and course/instructor evaluations with a focus on how students express their professional identity. As a result of examining these data they have instituted several changes in their teaching practices and the learning environment for their students, specifically they added new courses, created new course assignments, and modified classroom activities.
- The Management program was interested in how students integrate the sustainability paradigm and how they foster a positive organizational culture in their workplace. After examining student work and course evaluations, conducting student surveys and focus groups, they have modified their orientation processes and their methods for giving student feedback. They have also set a department goal to work as a faculty on enhancing voices of diversity.

Changes in other departments include:

- PsyD - organizing a colloquium to familiarize students with a variety of work settings.
- Education - revising math methods requirements for Elementary certification students.
- Environmental Studies – planning joint events and activities to foster interaction of students in different programs.

The Director of Academic Assessment provides feedback to individual programs about how to enhance or improve their assessment processes. In the coming year the Academic Assessment Office will be working with programs to increase institutional understanding of assessment and review course/instructor evaluation procedures.

Additionally, the AUNE Office of Academic Assessment has participated with other northeastern higher education institutions as a member of the New England Educational Assessment Network (NEEAN). Over the last two years faculty of every AUNE department have attended the network's summer institutes on academic assessment. In November 2011, Tom Julius, Director of Academic Assessment, Kevin Lyness, Applied Psychology, and Joy Ackerman, Environmental Studies presented on graduate school assessment practices at NEEAN's Fall Forum.