

**AUNE Office of Academic Assessment
2011-12 Academic Year Status Report
February 1, 2013**

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.

Analysis of the 2011-12 Annual Program Reports indicate that there is much to be admired about AUNE academic assessment. Our programs have quality Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) linked to the university mission. All programs have identified a variety of measures that can be used to assess those outcomes. This year is notable for programs' use of direct evidence (student papers, projects, and other artifacts) and for faculty involvement in data analysis and decision-making.

Across programs data collection methods included:

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

Some examples of closing the loop on academic assessment were:

- Management made changes to courses to include new resources about social diversity and modifications in the Finance course regarding the development of business plans.
- Applied Behavioral Analysis assessed, and found to be generally favorable, the effectiveness of a new curriculum plan.
- Marriage and Family Therapy Phd changed made program changes so that students receive mentoring from one faculty throughout their program.
- Dance Movement Therapy adjusted the coursework to introduce APA style writing earlier in the program's curriculum.
- Elementary Education Teacher Certification examined student work in math methods courses to inform development of a math-focused program concentration.
- Experienced Educators program made adjustments to practicum requirements.
- Environmental Studies – Resource Management & Conservation modified course offerings based on analysis of student work and feedback.
- Clinical Psychology revised Comprehensive Qualifying Exam questions for greater clarity and better alignment with the programs key competencies.

It is important to recognize that as an institution we are still developing our understanding of the role and practices of assessment. For example, some programs, but not all, make student learning outcomes easily accessible to students on web pages, in handbooks, and on course syllabi. Another challenge for most AUNE programs is accessing and comparing multiple years of data. We are still establishing the common ground between the discourse and practices of individual academic disciplines and the interconnectedness of the campus and university as a whole. In the coming year, the university Assessment Resource Team and the AUNE Office of Academic Assessment will work to foster a coherent vision for academic assessment, honoring our programs' uniquenesses and finding efficiencies of scale as one university.

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 the Academic Assessment Council and individual programs to increase institutional understanding of assessment and review course/instructor evaluation procedures.

Tom Julius
Director, Office of Academic Assessment