

AQIP Action Project Update: Assessment of Student Learning
Posted January 16, 2003

A. Describe the past year's accomplishments and the current state of this Action Project.

- The Assessment Committee revised and distributed the College's plan for assessment of curricular and co-curricular student learning in the Academic and Learning Services Division.
- Susan Hatfield, Assessment Coordinator, Winona State University, conducted an assessment workshop for the Division in March 2002 and met with individual departments and programs to discuss their assessment plans.
- The Assessment Committee sponsored brown bag lunches throughout the academic year to provide opportunities for departments to discuss assessment plan development.
- Student Affairs and faculty administered the first College Student Survey (CSS) assessment tool Spring 2002 and analyzed data Fall 2002. Orientation staff administered annual CIRP Freshman Survey Data to incoming first-year students Fall 2002.
- Academic and Learning Services Departments and programs were asked to develop or revise assessment plans by May 31, 2002. The Assessment Committee received 48 plans by mid-summer. These plans have been posted in the Academic and Learning Services Public Folder. There are 13 plans outstanding. The Assessment Committee continues to work with departments and programs that have not yet completed a plan.
- A subcommittee of the Assessment Committee reviewed the assessment plans and provided feedback to departments and programs via a general memo, e-mails, and individual meetings.
- Departments and programs submitted a mid-year progress report December 2002.
- Departments and programs are in the process of revising and implementing assessment plans.
- The Assessment Committee is developing a benchmarking instrument to measure the College's level of assessment implementation, using the Higher Learning Commission's criteria.

B. Describe how the institution involved people in work on this Action Project.

- The Assessment Committee includes faculty and staff from the Academic and Learning Services Division.
- All departments and programs in the Academic and Learning Services Division were asked to develop, revise, and implement a plan for the assessment of student learning.
- All departments and programs in the Division were given the opportunity to attend the assessment workshop in March 2002, participate in brown bag lunches, and review resources identified by the Assessment Committee.
- An e-mail was sent to the entire Augsburg College community describing the accomplishments of the Academic and Learning Services Division in the development of assessment of student learning plans.
- The Assessment Committee is available as a resource to departments and programs that would like assistance in the development and implementation of assessment plans. Departments/programs that met with Committee members Fall 2002 include Business Administration, Social Work, Philosophy, Nursing, Chemistry, Residence Life, Honors, Education, Mathematics, Music, and Speech Communication/Theatre. Additionally, the Assessment Committee sent e-mail feedback about assessment plans to individual departments/programs (e.g., American Indian Studies, Biology, Counseling and Health Promotion, Athletics, Health and Physical Education, Physician Assistant Studies, Political Science, and Ethnic Services Directors).
- Representatives from various academic divisions have met with Assessment Committee members to discuss assessment questions.
- Assessment Committee reports have been included on three Department/Division Chair meeting agendas.
- Assessment of student learning is an important Division-wide initiative for 2002-03. A presentation on this initiative was made at the December 2002 Division Staff Meeting.
- Assessment plans are posted in the Academic and Learning Services Public Folder.

C. Describe your planned next steps for this Action Project.

- An Assessment Committee work group is developing a survey instrument that will be used to establish benchmarks for the College's level of assessment implementation, using the Higher Learning Commission's criteria. This instrument will be used to survey faculty, staff, students, board members, and senior administration.
- The Assessment Committee will review December 2002 mid-year progress reports.
- Departments/programs will continue to develop, refine, and implement assessment of student learning plans. The Assessment Committee will serve as a resource to departments/programs.
- The Assessment Committee will begin to discuss the assessment plan for the new general education program.
- Departments and programs will be asked to submit an annual report in July 2003 that includes data, evaluation of data, and action plans (if any) in response to the data.
- The Assessment Committee will submit a budget for assessment to the Dean of the College.

D. Describe any "effective practices" that resulted from your work on this Action Project.

- This project has involved all programs and departments in the Academic and Learning Services Division. The work on the assessment of student learning within the Division has highlighted the College's emphasis on both curricular and co-curricular student learning.
- The process of formulating plans is helping departments reasonably address what constitute measurable outcomes.
- Departments/programs identified the following examples of "effective practices" in their mid-year reports:
 - Developing a departmental database to gather and track assessment data.
 - Developing a major field capstone course to measure student learning objectives.
 - Developing a new delivery model to address the needs of students with academic and mental health concerns.
 - Revising previously used assessment instruments to evaluate internship learning outcomes.

- Incorporating current departmental evaluation practices into the new plan for the assessment of student learning.

E. What challenges, if any, are you still facing in regards to this Action Project?

- To maintain Division-wide momentum for the assessment of student learning. Departments and programs are at different points in the development and implementation of assessment plans so it is important to work with each department/program to assist them in advancing their assessment planning efforts.
- To encourage departments/programs to evaluate the feasibility of implementing their assessment plans. This includes prioritizing student learning objectives to identify what is both significant and operational, and limiting the number of assessment measures for each student learning objective.
- To identify additional budget resources to support the work of departments and programs.
- To interpret and follow-up on the data collected from the College Student Survey (CSS).
- To coordinate data collection and integration of measurement tools across departments and programs.
- To manage the implementation of assessment plans while simultaneously making significant revisions to department courses that are part of the recently approved general education curriculum (See Action Project #2).

F. If you would like to discuss the possibility of AQIP providing help to stimulate progress on this Action Project, explain your need(s) here and tell us who to contact and when?

- At this time we do not require assistance with this Action Project.

G. Who should be able to see this annual update?

- Anyone.