LOOKING FOR RESULTS: HOW DO I KNOW WE’RE MAKING PROGRESS?

MEASURING PROGRESS & ACHIEVEMENT

ACADEMIC UNITS

Direct Indicators

- Comprehensive Exams
- Writing Proficiency Exams
- National Exams assessing subject matter knowledge (e.g. Major Field Achievement Test)
- Graduate Record Exam (GRE) subject test
- Certification Exams
- Licensure Exams
- Locally developed pre-test or post-test for mastery of knowledge
- Performance assessment for graduating seniors (e.g. science projects)
- Video or audio tape evaluations (e.g. teaching)
- Senior thesis/major project
- Portfolio evaluation containing representative examples of student’s work (e.g. written, creative, or scientific papers or projects)
- Capstone courses that are designed to measure student mastery of essential theoretical and methodological issues associated with discipline (e.g. senior-level seminars)

Indirect Indicators

- Comparison of outcomes with peer institutions
- Job placement of graduating seniors
- Employer surveys and questionnaires
- Graduate school acceptance rate
- Performance in graduate school
- Student graduation/retention rates
- Exit interviews
- Student satisfaction surveys
- Student course evaluations
- Internship evaluations
- Focus group discussions
- Alumni surveys reporting satisfaction with degree program and career success
• Tracking of alumni honors, awards and achievement at local, state and national levels
• Identification of at-risk students
• Analysis of student grade distribution
• Examination of information contained in department’s database
• Other evaluations of course instruction
• Curriculum/syllabus analysis
• Community perception of program effectiveness
• Community service/volunteer participation