

## **Oakland University Academic Assessment Plan – Revised Feb. 2018**

### **PHILOSOPHY AND OVERVIEW**

From its outset, Oakland University has been determined to provide a rigorous course of study emphasizing the liberal arts, knowledge of diverse cultures, and opportunities for student participation in research. These commitments from Oakland's formative years can still be discerned in its curriculum and are reflected in the approach taken by the University Assessment Committee (UAC) in guiding the assessment process.

Oakland University has a tradition of faculty and discipline autonomy, and a high degree of faculty participation in the making of academic policy. In keeping with these traditions, and to encourage faculty "ownership," the UAC, which has primary responsibility for ensuring sound assessment practice, invites each academic department or unit to devise an assessment plan which the departmental faculty find credible for each of its major programs.

The format for each program assessment plan includes:

- Specification of the program's goals
- Identification of student learning outcomes linked to program goals
- Delineation of the measures for student learning outcomes
- Explanation of how the department or unit uses assessment results to improve student learning
- Designation of the program faculty responsible for assessment activities.

Evaluation of the university's assessment process, as a whole, is conducted by the UAC.

### **ROLE OF THE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE**

1. The UAC, a standing committee of the University Senate, will implement the university assessment plan.
2. The UAC will work with all academic units to provide assistance and information for assessment activities and to promote awareness and develop understanding of the value of assessment across the university.

### **PROGRAM ASSESSMENT PLANS**

1. All Oakland University academic programs will assess student learning outcomes as described in the UAC assessment handbook for faculty.
2. Academic assessment plans developed by program faculty will state the program's purpose and educational goals, addressing national standards where applicable. Student learning outcomes linked to program goals will be assessed to evaluate programs; the assessment results will be used to improve student learning.
3. The development of an academic unit's assessment plan will flow from an academic unit's mission and goals. Through its assessment plan, an academic unit asks itself:

- How well are we doing what we aim to do?
  - How do we know that our students are graduating with the knowledge, competencies, and behaviors that we believe a graduate from this program should have?
  - What are we doing to improve student learning?
4. An assessment plan will be comprehensive and must involve at least two measures (quantitative and/or qualitative), at least one of which is a direct measure.
  5. An assessment plan will be a collaborative effort by the faculty, coordinated by a program head or an individual delegated to undertake this task.
  6. An assessment plan should be reviewed and revised periodically to ensure that it is meeting its objectives.

### **PROGRAM ASSESSMENT PLAN REVIEW**

1. The UAC will establish guidelines for the development of assessment plans, criteria for evaluating them, and a schedule for the submission, review, and implementation of assessment plans.
2. All academic units and subunits providing programs for undergraduate and graduate students will develop assessment plans and submit them to the UAC.
3. In order to assist in the development of assessment plans, the UAC will provide feedback during the planning process.
  - 3.1 The UAC will review assessment plans and either approve them or request revisions.
4. New programs are required to develop assessment plans, following the guidelines set forth by the UAC, as part of their approval process, and submit the plans to the UAC.

### **PROGRAM ASSESSMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND REPORTING**

1. Upon approval of its assessment plan by the UAC, the academic unit will implement the plan.
2. The UAC will establish guidelines for the development of assessment reports, criteria for evaluating them, and a schedule for their submission.
  - 2.1 The UAC will establish a reporting schedule which will be coordinated with the unit's self-study and accreditation schedules when possible.
  - 2.2 According to the schedule developed by the UAC, an academic unit will report results to the UAC and its dean or other academic administrator.
3. Funding for special projects will be reviewed for approval by UAC members.

## **ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE REPORTING AND OVERSIGHT**

1. The UAC will review assessment reports and either accept them or identify steps required for acceptance.
  - 1.1 The UAC will provide a written review of the assessment report to the academic unit and its dean or other academic administrator.
  - 1.2 The UAC will report annually to the University Senate on its activities and the progress of program assessment at Oakland University.