

ASSESSMENT PLAN NARRATIVE

Master of Science in Applied Statistics

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

This document describes the Department of Mathematics and Statistics (DMS) plan for assessing the MS program in Applied Statistics (MSAS).

1. OU Mission Goals

Among the goals listed in the Oakland University Mission Statement, our assessment activities will focus on Excellence in Graduate Programs, and Research and Scholarship. These goals are central to the mission of the DMS graduate programs.

2. Department Goals

We will continue to provide excellent graduate programs. The MS in Applied Statistics has been in existence since the mid 1980s. At its peak in the early 1990s the program was among the largest in the country. Recent enrollment levels have been lower (here and elsewhere), but there are signs of a newly revived interest in statistics as a career. The main purpose of this program is to prepare students for careers in industry and government. The program is intended to provide methodological research experiences for our students, as well as experience in the application of statistics to business, industry and government.

We believe the quality of this program is excellent; we intend to keep it this way.

3. Learning Outcomes

The MSAS program is designed to accomplish the following student learning outcomes:

- A. Deep knowledge of course material, both theory and application.
- B. Exposure to, and an understanding of, the nature of research in statistics.
- C. An understanding of how statistical models and methods are used effectively in business, industry and government.

4. Methods of Assessment

The key internal/direct measure of our level of success in attaining the stated learning outcomes is the quality of the consulting competency project report and presentation. Successful completion of this project draws on the complete experience of the student in the MSAS program. External/indirect measures include student exit interviews and follow-up interviews with alumni.

5. Assessment Administration

The DMS Committee on Graduate Programs (a standing committee) will have the responsibility of overseeing and administering the assessment activities. It is chaired by the department's Coordinator for Graduate Programs, who is a continuing member of the DMS Steering Committee (i.e., executive committee). The chair of the department is an ex-officio member of the Graduate Programs Committee.

6. Assessment Procedures

All competency project reports will be evaluated by appropriate DMS faculty members. Student exit interviews will be conducted by members of the Committee on Graduate Programs. Alumni survey data will be collected on a two year cycle. During each academic year, the Committee on Graduate Programs will review the available assessment data along with other relevant information and determine whether any changes to the program are needed. As necessary, the Committee will develop proposals for departmental approval, and in any case the Committee will report to the department on an annual basis.