

CARCs providing feedback on degree program assessment plans

“Institutional curiosity seeks answers to questions about which students learn, what they learn, how well they learn, when they learn” (Maki, Peggy L. Developing an Assessment Plan to Learn About Student Learning, January 2002. Retrieved from the website <http://www.aabe.org/Assessment/assessmentplan.htm>)

The College Assessment Review Committees (CARCs) are currently reviewing the degree program assessment plans designed by the faculty from various K-State departments and units. The CARCs are primarily faculty committees, composed of appointees from various disciplines within the college. Departments and programs are responsible for identifying relevant student learning outcomes, developing and implementing assessment plans that incorporate the specific features of their disciplines, and reporting on the progress and results from their plans. CARCS review and

approve of individual assessment plans and reports, utilizing the expertise of peers within each college. The university provides the general framework and guidelines, and the Assessment and Program Review (APR) Office assists with these efforts. This structure is appropriate at K-State, a large and complex university with a very decentralized culture, in which departments and units customize general policies to reflect the unique characteristics of their disciplines and units.

Each CARC advises and assists the Dean in (a) reviewing

each of the college’s Degree Program Assessment of Student Learning (ASL) Plans and evaluating them using an established rubric, (b) providing suggested revisions and feedback on ways to further improve assessment, and (c) making recommendations to the Dean for either approval or revision of the plans.

Based on the major questions that are answered on the template provided to faculty for submitting assessment plans, the CARCs evaluate the assessment plans based mainly on the following basic

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◆ Would like to share with your colleagues information, tools or articles on assessment?

◆ Need more resources on assessment?

◆ Need to contact us?

Please call or email

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Majority of Assessment Plans Submitted

By the end of December 2004, departments and programs had developed and submitted assessment plans for 83% of the Associates, 76% of the Bachelors, 87% of the Masters and 91% of the Doctoral degree programs. The assessment plans specify which degree program student learning outcomes will be assessed over the next three years, how they will be assessed, which groups of students will be assessed, the timeline for implementa-

tion, and the process and timeline for data presentation, discussion of results and actions to implement improvements based on results.

Department and program heads submitted degree program assessment plans to their Deans last November 1 and Deans submitted them to the Provost November 29. Assessment plans for graduate degree programs were submitted to the Dean of the Graduate School. The College As-

essment Review Committees (CARCs) are currently reviewing the assessment plans and giving feedback to departments regarding the plans. After clarifications are received and acted upon, the CARCs will recommend to the Dean preliminary approval or revision of the plans on or before the end of January, 2005. As of end November, 2004, most of the assessment plans for the

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elements:

- Student learning outcomes clearly state the knowledge, skills and attitudes the students are able to do or demonstrate, rather than the opportunities or resources available to students.
- Multiple assessment methods are identified, with at least half of the measures being direct measures (i.e., evidence is based on student performance, which demonstrates learning itself). Indirect measures may also be utilized, that is, evidence is a reflection or satisfaction about learning (i.e., secondary evidence of learning).
- The groups of students or individuals to be assessed are clearly identified.
- There is a clear plan for assessment implementation for the next three years.
- The process for the interpretation, presentation, discussion of data, implementing revisions based on assessment results, is clearly described, including who will be involved and the time frame of the process.

The Graduate School CARC evaluates assessment plans of the graduate degree programs.

Updates on submitted plans and status of CARC activities will be provided in future newsletters. For more information about the CARCs and the review and approval process of assessment plans, please refer to

<http://www.k-state.edu/apr/process/reporting/index.htm>

at the APR website.

APR Website has new look and more resources

The Assessment and Program Review (APR) Office website was reorganized and updated in the Fall of 2004, for better navigation and access to the growing number of resources, including degree program and unit assessment plans and reports being developed at K-State. Some of the information that can be found at the website, <http://www.k-state.edu/apr/> are:

- Assessment Manual — includes recommended introductory readings on assessment, the basic elements and recommended steps for developing assessment plans, how to write student learning outcomes, measures, rubrics and other tools.
- Reports — includes degree program or unit student learning outcomes, plans and reports (as they become available), by college, the 2005 Focused Visit Report and reports from surveys conducted by the APR Office.
- Other Resources — The Resources section include educational materials developed at K-State, while links to other online articles, assessment websites, journals, organizations, conferences and assessment pages of some institutions are under the External Resources section.

February's newsletter will be sent electronically. The newsletters will also be available online, and can be accessed at the following link on the APR webpage:

<http://www.ksu.edu/apr/resources/newsletter.htm>

- Assessment Process - includes university SLOs, the reporting and feedback processes (including key memos

Assessment Plans Submitted (from page 1)

undergraduate degree programs of the College of Human Ecology have undergone review and feedback, and most have been recommended for approval by their CARC. These initially approved plans are currently under review by

the APR office, before they are sent to the Provost.

Congratulations to those departments who have submitted their degree program assessment plans by the November 29, 2004 deadline.