

Proposed University Outcomes Assessment Committee

Purpose:

Develop and implement university-level outcomes assessment plans for undergraduate education, including periodic review of existing learning outcomes for university-wide academic requirements.

Coordinate learning outcomes assessment implementation across the university.

Rationale:

There is no faculty committee with oversight for outcomes assessment at the university level; this oversight is a corollary of the faculty's responsibility for curriculum. Outcomes assessment and curriculum development go hand in hand. Having coordination across colleges for outcomes assessment will facilitate best practices, sharing of resources, and may lead to efficiencies not possible without this level of coordination. University-level learning outcomes are generally expected for institutional accreditation. The Iowa Board of Regents has recently adopted a Strategic Plan that includes the expectation that Regents Institutions will implement academic program learning outcomes assessment plans. Having a University Outcomes Assessment Committee will facilitate institutional compliance with these expectations. Robust learning outcomes assessment plans should, more importantly, improve the quality of our courses, curricula, and the overall educational experience of our students.

Membership:

Representative from each College's Outcomes Assessment Committee (2 year terms).

Ex officio, Representative from the Provost's Office (Continuous Academic Program Improvement Coordinator suggested).

Chair appointed by Faculty Senate Committee on Committees (3 year term, renewable for one additional term).

Reporting Structure:

This committee reports to Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Council; the committee chair will serve as a member of Academic Affairs Council.