

EXAMPLE

Summary of Assessment Findings [ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT] – Student Learning Outcome [DATE]

Learning Outcome:

Students will be able to apply theoretical problems to practical applications and to prepare students to assume responsible positions in the [DISCIPLINE] field.

Assessment Findings

Strengths:

Direct Assessment:

Practicum Evaluation -This is an instrument completed by practicum supervisors. Two years ago we discovered that students did not score as well on this as expected, so we redesigned the class students were required to take prior to their practicum experience. We included more emphasis on professional behavior in the clinical setting and included more discussions on the actual experience and less discussion on developmental theories. We believe the increase in the number of students scoring above 3.5 indicates the effectiveness of the new class, but will continue to monitor this over the next couple of years.

Major Field Test in [DISCIPLINE] - According to test results, the average score of the graduates in our program was at or near the 50th percentile compared to national results.

Evaluation of the Report on the [EXPERIENCE] - This is an instrument that was developed in-house to help evaluate a report all students must write on their own experience in [PROGRAM/OUTCOME/GOAL]. This indicates how well our program aided students' ability to write a clear, concise report. Students performed much better than was expected on this indicator. Although we feel that this is positive, we are going to review the instrument to determine if it is indeed or rigorous enough to adequately evaluate a student's writing ability.

Indirect Assessment:

Exit Surveys - For those items asking about students' satisfaction with practicum, internship, clinical or other hands-on experiences outside of the classroom. High to moderate student satisfaction is what we expected, thus indicating that students are not dissatisfied with the change.

Weaknesses:

Direct Assessment:

Evaluation of the Report on the [EXPERIENCE] - Students do not use [PROGRAM] terms in their writing. While overall, students scored high on the Evaluation of the Report on the [EXPERIENCE], when the item assessing their use of [PROGRAM] terms was looked at separately, fewer students than expected scored satisfactorily. Faculty members in the department discussed this result, and what could be done about it. In the discussion the faculty came to a consensus that the outcome seemed appropriate when the evaluation plan was developed. However, the faculty realized that using [PROGRAM] terms is something that is typically developed in graduate studies and is in fact more appropriate for students with advanced degrees. Therefore, we have decided to modify our evaluation plan and delete the outcome. The complete evaluation report is located in the department's files.

Assessment of [PROGRAM] Knowledge - This is a standardized test which compares our students with other students in the nation. Because the overall scores were lower than expected, we looked more closely at the subscale scores. The area in which Southeastern students scored the lowest was in ethics. In the ensuing discussion, we discovered that faculty assumed this topic was being discussed in all classes. Due to this assumption, individual faculty would often gloss over ethics discussion. It was decided to add a special component on ethics to the Introduction class in which all majors must take. We also decided to include a component on ethics in the practicum preparation class. With these changes, it is probable that students will participate in multiple discussions of [PROGRAM] Ethics. We will monitor the future results of the ethics subscale to determine if these changes are sufficient to increase students' knowledge of ethics. The complete results of the standardized test are located in the department's files.

Indirect Assessment:

Exit Surveys - Students have raised the issue of desiring more opportunities to collaborate with other students on class projects. Because of this, we added a couple of questions to their Exit Survey. The first year of collecting this data tends to support student concerns. However, at this time, we do not believe we have sufficient data to warrant a change in the program. When more data are available, the outcome will be re-evaluated. The complete exit survey report is located in the department's files.

Actions Taken:

1. Continue to emphasize professional behavior in the practicum experience
2. Continue to monitor the practicum experience
3. Continue to monitor writing ability of students
4. Delete outcome on the use of [PROGRAM] terms
5. Emphasize ethics in introductory classes taken by majors
6. Continue to monitor the ethical subscale of the assessment
7. Continue to monitor data supporting the increase of student collaboration