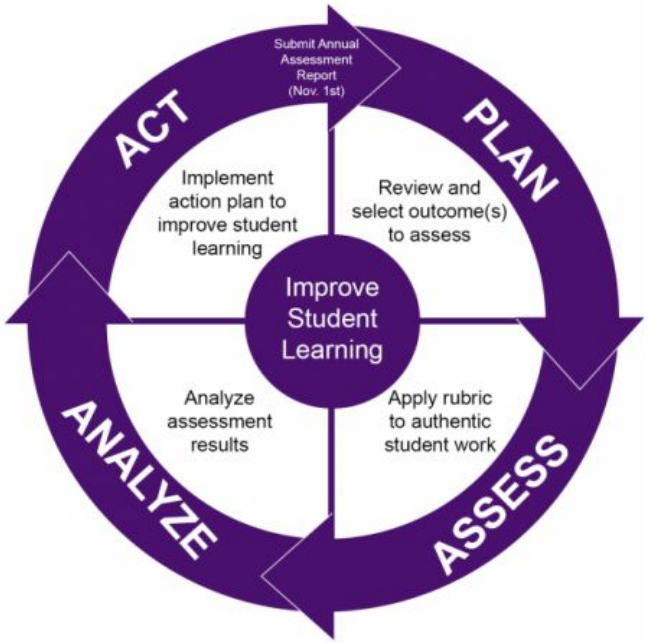
Closing the Loop:

Using Assessment to Improve Student Learning

2019-2020 Program Assessment Highlights

University of Northern Iowa

Assessment Cycle



- UNI is committed to the assessment of student learning for the ongoing improvement of curriculum, programs, and services offered by the university and for accreditation processes
- All programs submit annual assessment reports with an assessment plan that correlates with the academic program review cycle This ensures that all student learning outcomes are regularly assessed
- Academic Program Review, occurring on a 7-year cycle and mandated by the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, includes both internal and external review processes and provides faculty the opportunity to synthesize a comprehensive set of data to improve student learning.

Speech-Language Pathology, M.A.

Outcome(s) Assessed

- Students will demonstrate critical thinking appropriate for the field of speech-language pathology by creating and implementing effective clinical treatment plans.

Methods & Artifacts

Artifacts include a treatment using either an individual treatment plan or and and a plan of care. Approximately 20% of the first drafts were collected from students in their final semester of advanced clinic practice.

Data-Informed Action Plan

- Students using the Electronic Medical Records system will be provided a template.
- Glossaries emphasizing the content/definitions of each component have been added to the appropriate courses.

Principalship, M.A.E.

Outcome(s) Assessed

- Students will demonstrate in writing a thoughtful understanding, application and analysis of specific Iowa Standards for School Leaders - shared vision, culture of learning, management, family & community, ethics, and societal context.

Methods & Artifacts

The artifact assessed for this year's student outcome assessment is the student's core value paper, "The Principal's Role as a Leader of Learning."

Data-Informed Action Plan

- Instructors in EDLEAD 6284 will be more centered about the standards and need for details/examples, demonstration of exemplars, and appropriate feedback from draft copies.
- Faculty will discuss the educator preparation standards as they are being changed by the state to provide additional opportunities to refine student work that meets prepared leader assessment.

Closing the Loop:

Using Assessment to Improve Student Learning

2019-2020 Program Assessment Highlights

Finance, B.A.

Outcome(s) Assessed

- Students will be able to identify and ready to exhibit strong work values in contemporary organizations

Methods & Artifacts

The artifact for this outcome was an assessment administered in MGMT 4175, a required course for all business majors.

Data-Informed Action Plan

- Revising the ethics curriculum--the curriculum previously used was omitted due to a restructure of the program.
- Introduce ethics earlier in the progression of finance majors.

Psychology, B.A.

Outcome(s) Assessed

- Graduates will critically apply psychology to real world experiences

Methods & Artifacts

Artifacts include The Person-Evnrimonment Fit assignment, term papers, and the Criterion Validation assignment.

Data-Informed Action Plan

- Make greater connections between making their findings and practical implications.
- In PSYCH 3179, students will be asked to find research articles early in the semester and to summarize them separately before integrating them into papers.
- In PSYCH 3305, students will be identified that are not progressing with the assignment and provided additional support as needed to finish.

History, M.A.

Outcome(s) Assessed

- Students graduating from the Master of Arts in History program will be able to: Create an original interpretation engaging primary and/or secondary research.
- Students graduating from the Master of Arts in History program will be able to: identify the appropriate bodies of historiography for topics related to their research; determine the relationship between their interpretation and the interpretation of other historians.

Methods & Artifacts

Artifacts include the MA thesis or MA research paper.

Data-Informed Action Plan

- Encourage students to demonstrate awareness of the broader historical context in scholarship in their chosen topic.
- Mentor graduate students to improve their writing, formatting, and research resources available.
- Creating a packet of resources and references for Thesis and Research Paper advisors, including a check list and template for completing the MA final product.