



## Closing the Loop:

### Using Assessment to Improve Student Learning

2012-2013 Highlights



#### Speech Pathology, M.A.

##### Outcome(s) Assessed

- Students will demonstrate appropriate application of clinical procedures and processes, and problem-solving, in the treatment of speech and language disorders
- Students will demonstrate effective oral and written communication consistent with the requirements of the discipline
- Students will learn, integrate, and apply discipline specific knowledge

##### Methods & Artifacts

- **Evidence-based practice reports** completed by supervisors submitted in CSD 6500
- **Papers** and **oral reports** submitted in CSD 6650 and 6600 (Dysphagia & Aphasia)
- **Exit Interviews**

##### Data-Informed Action Plan

- **Need for new tracking system to align with updated national standards**
  - Implemented new tracking system
  - Faculty and clinical supervisors have been using the new system
  - Discussed ways to assess this system for the next assessment year

#### Earth Science - Teaching, B.A.

##### Outcome(s) Assessed

- The student is able to successfully complete the student teaching experience, the student is able to demonstrate the ability to apply earth science information in the classroom setting
- The student is able to correctly apply the major principles of meteorology to their applications and the environment
- The student is able to synthesize earth science information and interpretations of information in the various disciplines of Earth Science from multiple sources

##### Methods & Artifacts

- Student **teaching evaluations**
- **Grades** in advanced meteorology coursework
- Term **papers** and writing **assignments**
- Faculty **feedback**

##### Data-Informed Action Plan

- **Need for more hands-on experiences identified**
  - Pursuing the addition of lab and field method coursework
- **Only one advanced course in Meteorology available, so applying fundamental knowledge is not always possible for students**
  - Considered changing the current course configuration
  - Explored the potential for additional staffing
- **New requirement for Praxis II examinations**
  - Discussed the need to assess this in the next assessment year

#### Spanish, B.A.

##### Outcome(s) Assessed

- Students will be able to present information, concepts, and ideas, both in speaking and in writing, to an audience of listeners or readers on a variety of topics
  - Mid-level students are expected to write at the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) Intermediate Mid Level
  - Exit-level students are expected to write at the ACTFL Advanced Low Level

##### Methods & Artifacts

- Three-page **video reports**
  - Used a grammar and vocabulary rubric
  - Evaluated 6 mid-level students and 7 exit-level students

##### Data-Informed Action Plan

- **Grammatical deficiencies seen among mid-level students**
  - Added a new grammar textbook to Intermediate Spanish course
  - Spanish 2001 and 2002 have a new syllabus, textbook, and online platform
  - Added emphasis on grammatical accuracy in upper-level coursework
  - Future assessments will focus on the role of study abroad in grammatical proficiency



## Closing the Loop:

### Using Assessment to Improve Student Learning

2012-2013 Highlights



#### Industrial Mathematics, P.S.M.

##### Outcome(s) Assessed

- Students will be well-prepared to work in the real business and industrial world
- Students will be able to express themselves clearly, effectively, and professionally, both orally and in writing
- Students will acquire working experiences through the industrial internship

##### Methods & Artifacts

- **Survey of graduates** about their career paths and the applicability of their skills
- **Term projects** are presented in each course
- Internship **supervisor feedback**

##### Data-Informed Action Plan

- **Students need additional problem-solving skill development**
  - Internship projects will be strengthened
- **Deficiencies seen in presentation skills**
  - Added additional term projects with a focus on presentation skills
  - Continued effort and emphasis on communication

#### Movement and Exercise Science, B.A.

##### Outcome(s) Assessed

- Understand and apply fundamental concepts in the discipline
- Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, in both one-on-one and group settings
- Address issues critically and reflectively
- Work well with others
- Respect persons from diverse cultures and backgrounds
- Commit to open-minded inquiry and lifelong learning to maintain best practice in the profession

##### Methods & Artifacts

- Internship **supervisor reports**
- **Faculty reports** of Research Experiences course
- **Faculty reports** from lab courses

##### Data-Informed Action Plan

- **Need for better instruction about job applications and career paths**
  - Created new course focusing specifically on career paths for Movement and Exercise Science Majors
- **Interest in Sport Management continually expressed**
  - Searched for a new faculty member in this area
  - Explored the potential to create a Sport Management major at UNI
- **Concerns with large class sizes expressed**
  - Continued advocacy for additional resources

#### Mathematics (Non-Teaching), B.A.

##### Outcome(s) Assessed

- Appropriateness of curriculum, based on both student views and employer needs
- Preparation for industry
- Breadth of education

##### Methods & Artifacts

- Student **survey**
- **Student employment data** from graduating seniors
- Actuarial **exams**

##### Data-Informed Action Plan

- **Need for additional instruction in the Actuarial Science field**
  - Added a new course - Seminar on Actuarial Profession
  - Included presentations from working professional actuaries in the course
- **Most students do not take a statistics course, although it is strongly encouraged**
  - Changed curriculum requirements to require completion of a Statistics class at the junior/senior level
- **Students expressed a desire for more flexibility**
  - Reduced program electives from four to two
- **Additional emphasis on reading and presenting mathematics needed**
  - All students are now required to take the senior seminar course
  - This curricular change will serve the dual-purpose of increasing reliability of Student Outcome Assessments