

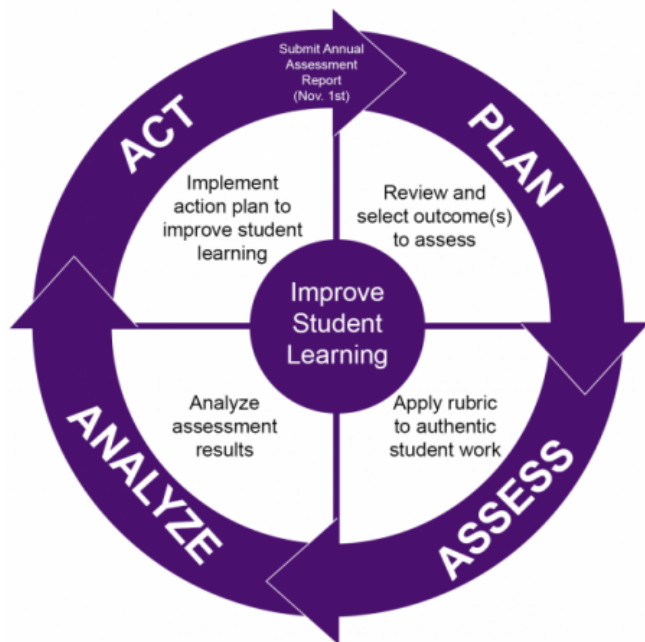


Closing the Loop: Using Assessment to Improve Student Learning

2020-2021 Program Assessment Highlights



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.

Accounting, B.A.

Outcome(s) Assessed

- Accounting Content Knowledge and Skills: Graduates should be able to demonstrate an understanding of and apply accounting theory and practice.
- Communication: Graduates should be able to communicate effectively.
- Ethics: Graduates should demonstrate an understanding the importance of conducting business activities in an ethical manner

Methods & Artifacts

Artifacts include competency-based assignments, CPA Exam and Advisory council feedback. To demonstrate competent usage of current technology (SLO 6), accounting students are required to take Microsoft’s Excel Certification exam as an external assessment of their Excel skills.

Data-Informed Action Plan

- As a result of the findings from the 2019-20 undergrad assessment, the department elected to incorporate an ethical component in the Program Level Assessment Plan.
- A review of the 2020-21 department level assessment plans will take place in February 2022. Action items will be identified.

Accounting, MAcc

Outcome(s) Assessed

- Graduates will be technically competent.
- Graduates will demonstrate professional research skills.
- Graduates will demonstrate effective problem solving and analytical skills.
- Graduates will demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills.
- Graduates will demonstrate effective technology skills.

Methods & Artifacts

In the Applied Professional Research course, students complete a number of case assignments. Rubrics are used to evaluate student performance. Responses to questions on technical knowledge and communication skills are used for assessment purposes. Most students complete the four part CPA exam during their final semester. The number of parts passed are used as a measure of technical competence.

Data-Informed Action Plan

- During the 2020-2021 academic year, three years of data on the Oral and Written outcome were reviewed.
- Scores on rubric data were quite high, with an average score of 4.8 and 4.4 on a 5.0 scale. Feedback on internship evaluations averaged 4.6 on a 5.0 scale for both communication types.
- No major changes to the curriculum are recommended at this point.



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Finance, B.A.

Outcome(s) Assessed

- Graduates will demonstrate knowledge of current business practice and management techniques necessary to be effective in managing and leading the day-to-day operations of the organization, as well as scanning the business environment and strategically planning for the future.

Methods & Artifacts

Artifacts include Educational Testing Service (ETS) Major Field Test business capstone experience presentation, and program evaluation survey.

Data-Informed Action Plan

- Improvement of assessment instruments so that students are required by the prompt to exhibit critical thinking.
- Add financial accounting to the current accounting course finance and managerial accounting courses are both spending time there – should refocus managerial time to spend half on financial accounting, change name to reflect double topics accounting should take finance first when possible (as an advising preference).
- Determine whether the current assessment process (ETS) covers all learning goals; develop additional assessment as needed.
- Review course for coverage of other program-level learning objectives.

Elementary Education, M.A.E

Outcome(s) Assessed

- Students will develop a Social Studies Action Plan that demonstrates their ability to connect theory and practice in two of three thematic areas of Social Studies education, namely democratic practice, social justice or service learning.

Methods & Artifacts

Artifacts include the development of an action plan and developing and applying curriculum samples.

Data-Informed Action Plan

- Begin having bi-weekly synchronous Zoom class sessions.
- Blend library research services into class time.
- Develop an assignment where students need to find a peer-reviewed journal.

Earth Science, B.A

Outcome(s) Assessed

- Describe fundamental theories and concepts in Earth and Space Science.
- Use concepts and theories from Earth and Space Science to create a model of a complex system

Methods & Artifacts

Artifacts include papers, presentations, tests and exams.

Data-Informed Action Plan

- Strongly advise students to complete their cognate areas of mathematics, chemistry and/or physics during the first two years of study.
- Increase emphasis on specific content areas with repeated exposure and application to problems, including hypothetical situations, and case studies.
- Increase classroom discussion of ways to apply content knowledge to real and hypothetical scenarios.
- Increase the use of visualization tools, such as diagrams, graphs, models, etc., that students would create or add to, in order to help them comprehend complex systems.
Increase the use of questions that synthesize multiple concepts to create a “big picture” view of a complex system.