

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES (OBJECTIVES)

1. LEADERSHIP - Students will portray interpersonal competencies such as the ability to manage conflict. Students will also display emotional stability and self-confidence and will demonstrate strong decision making and problem solving abilities.
2. COMMUNICATION - Students will demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills.
3. CRITICAL THINKING - Students will apply critical thinking skills by solving problems that require quantitative and qualitative analysis.
4. TECHNOLOGY - Students will demonstrate knowledge of information technology tools.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOME #1 (Leadership)

Students will portray interpersonal competencies such as the ability to manage conflict. Students will also display emotional stability and self-confidence and will demonstrate strong decision making and problem solving abilities.

Assessment Method #1: During the senior level course XXX 999, students will compose a reflection paper identifying a personal approach to professional leadership. A sample of 20 reflection papers will be evaluated by 4 independent faculty raters. Prior to evaluating papers, evaluators will participate in training designed to calibrate scoring procedures and produce inter-rater reliability.

Criteria for Success:

At least 14 of the 20 papers will be judged by at least 3 of 4 raters to demonstrate a well-organized, coherent, and comprehensive theory of leadership.

Schedule:

Every spring term

Assessment Results:

12 out of 20 papers were judged by at least 3 of 4 raters to demonstrate leadership.

Action Plans:

In the junior level courses YYY 000 and YYY 111, additional research and/or reflection papers will be assigned. Additionally the academic department will establish a writing lab available each weekday afternoon to provide tutoring.

Follow-Up Plans:

The writing lab has been established and is very successful. Beginning next term, the department will open the lab for an additional 2 hours on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday mornings.

Assessment Method #2: In the junior level course XXX 999, students will be given a passage containing at least one argument. Students will identify which claims in the passage have truth-value determined by empirical investigation and which have truth-value determined by logical argument.

Criteria for Success:

60% of student responses will be correct in determining truth-value source.

Schedule:

Every fall term

Assessment Results:

62% of student responses were correct.

Action Plans:

Although we met our target success rate and no action is required, we still plan to introduce an additional assignment in each of the courses XXX 111, XXX 222, and XXX 333 which will address using empirical investigation and logical argument techniques with the goal of increasing the success rate to more than a 2% margin.

Follow-Up Plans:

None available as of yet.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOME #2
(Communication)

Students will demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills.

Assessment Method #1: In the capstone course XXX 999, students will be given a passage that contains an argument and that contains a stated conclusion. The passage will contain at least one dubious but relevant premise and at least one obviously true statement that concerns the topic but is not relevant as a premise. Students will compose an essay that explains how the argument succeeds or fails.

Criteria for Success:

Essays will be evaluated by the Writing Essay Rubric. 85% of students will score "Meets Expectations" or "Exceeds Expectations."

Schedule:

Every fall term

Assessment Results:

85% of students scored "Meets expectations" or "Exceeds Expectations."

Action Plans:

None required.

Follow-Up Plans:

None required.

Assessment Method #2: In the capstone course XXX 999, students will research the merits of a specified approach to solving a course-related problem. During the last 2 weeks of the term, students will provide findings and rationales to fellow-students in a formalized presentation.

Criteria for Success:

Essays will be evaluated by the Presentation Rubric. 85% of students will score "Meets Expectations" or "Exceeds Expectations."

Schedule:

Every fall term

Assessment Results:

72% of students scored "Meets expectations" or "Exceeds Expectations."

Action Plans:

In the junior level course YYY 111 and additional research assignment will be given which requires a critique of research methods. In the senior level course ZZZ 222 a presentation will be required to polish public speaking skills.

Follow-Up Plans:

None.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOME #3
(Critical Thinking)

Students will apply critical thinking skills by solving problems that require quantitative and qualitative analysis.

Assessment Method #1: In the junior level course XXX 999, students will be given a passage containing at least one argument. Students will identify which claims in the passage have truth-value determined by empirical investigation and which have truth-value determined by logical argument.

Criteria for Success:

60% of student responses will be correct in determining truth-value source.

Schedule:

Every fall term.

Assessment Results:

72% of student responses were correct.

Action Plans:

None required.

Follow-Up Plans:

None required.

Assessment Method #2: In the capstone course XXX 999, students will be given a passage that contains an argument and that contains a stated conclusion. The passage will contain at least one dubious but relevant premise and at least one obviously true statement that concerns the topic but is not relevant as a premise. Students will compose an essay that explains how the argument succeeds or fails.

Criteria for Success:

Essays will be evaluated by the Critical Thinking Essay Rubric. 85% of students will score “Meets Expectations” or “Exceeds Expectations.”

Schedule:

Every fall term.

Assessment Results:

75% of students scored “Meets Expectations” or “Exceeds Expectations.”

Action Plans:

In the junior level course YYY 111 and the senior level course ZZZ 222, similar assignments will be given with additional instruction on “making and breaking arguments” in the days leading to the assignments.

Follow-Up Plans:

None.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOME #4
(Technology)

Students will demonstrate knowledge of information technology tools.

Assessment Method #1: In the entry level course, XXX 000, selected exam questions given throughout the term will evaluate student understanding of IT terminology.

Criteria for Success:

85% of embedded exam questions in the sample will be answered correctly.

Schedule:

Every spring term

Assessment Results:

95% of embedded exam questions were answered correctly.

Action Plans:

None required.

Follow-Up Plans:

None required.

Assessment Method #2: Potential and former employers of program graduates will be surveyed on the technology preparedness of graduating students.

Criteria for Success:

90% of employers will express opinion that students are "adequately prepared" or "exceptionally prepared" for employment.

Schedule:

Every spring term

Assessment Results:

92% of employers expressed opinion that students are "adequately prepared" or "exceptionally prepared" for employment

Action Plans:

None required.

Follow-Up Plans:

None required.

Assessment Method #3: During senior-year internship, students will maintain a journal which chronicles personal encounters with technology in the work-place.

Criteria for Success:

90% of journals will indicate at least 10 separate interactions with technology and technological ideas during the internship.

Schedule:

Every spring term

Assessment Results:

95% of journals indicated at least 10 interactions with technology.

Action Plans:

None required.

Follow-Up Plans:

None required.