Ferris State University
Assessment Plan
Approved on 01/21/2011

Goal 1 College assessment committees will review programs within their college and create action plans to progress programs to the next level within reasonable timeframes. Once programs have reached level 1f, they will continue to engage in levels 1f through 1g in a cyclical manner based on their assessment schedules, and be periodically reviewed by their respective college assessment committee.

Program Expectation Levels:

1. All programs will have entered into TracDat:
    a. Clear and measurable outcomes.
    b. Appropriate assessment methods for each outcome.
    c. Criteria for success for each assessment method.
    d. Reasonable assessment schedules for each assessment method.
    e. Courses integrated into a curriculum map.
    f. Results of assessment methods following their assessment schedules.
    g. Action steps when assessment results do not meet the given criteria for success. Entering examples of improvement efforts will also be encouraged to display how the criteria for success are met.
2. Programs will use assessment data for improvement of educational practices and include reports of recommended action in TracDat.

Goal 2 College assessment committees will review courses within their college and create action plans to progress courses to the next level within reasonable timeframes. Once courses have reached level 1e, they will continue to engage in levels 1e through 1f in a cyclical manner based on their assessment schedules, and be periodically reviewed by their respective college assessment committee.

Course Expectation Levels:

1. All courses will have entered into TracDat:
    a. Clear, measurable outcomes.
    b. Appropriate assessment methods for each outcome.
    c. Criteria for success for each assessment method.
    d. Reasonable assessment schedules for each assessment method.
    e. Results of assessment methods following their assessment schedules.
    f. Action steps into TracDat when assessment results do not meet criteria for success. Entering examples of improvement efforts will also be encouraged to display how the criteria for success are met.
2. All courses that are integrated into a program curriculum map will provide assessment data for program assessment and program review.

Goal 3 The Academic Affairs Assessment Committee (AAAC) will continue to support college-wide and university-wide committees in efforts related to assessment including, but not limited to, the following:

1. The AAAC will continue to have at least one representative from each college assessment committee who will provide an update each semester to the committee regarding their college's progress and efforts in meeting the program and course assessment goals and will keep the AAAC informed of any support needed in achieving these goals.
2. The AAAC will be responsive to and supportive of the General Education Taskforce in new developments and in enhancing General Education assessment efforts as these developments progress.

Goal 4 There will be strong professional development programs in place to engage faculty in increasingly effective assessment practices.

1. The sharing of best practices in assessment will continue to be encouraged through competitions with PDI rewards, a best practices showcase in the spring semester, workshops coordinated with FCTL, and through postings on the Academic Affairs website in Ferris Best Practices, Sharing Our Learning, and Strategies for Effective Assessment.
2. Mentors will continue to be supported in their responsibilities and funding through the guidelines in the Mentor Program.
3. Faculty attendance at assessment conferences will continue to be funded adhering to the Assessment Funded Travel Process .
4. Program Improvement Grants and Assessment Enhancement Grants will continue to be funded as described in the Assessment Budget.
5. The Inquiries Project will continue to be funded through the end of 2012 and then be re-evaluated.
6. The Higher Learning Commission Academy Team will act as a subcommittee of the AAAC and the AAAC will provide support for the Academy for Assessment of Student Learning Project to its completion.
7. FCTL will provide continued support for assessment training of new faculty, staff, and faculty returning the week before fall semester, and workshops throughout the year.

Goal 5 Assessment will be an integral part of regular institutional practices.

1. The Academic Affairs newsletter will continue to report on the current state of assessment.
2. Data from the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) will continue to be assessed to improve student engagement and faculty engagement in these efforts.
3. Effective assessment practices will be counted positively in pre/post tenure review and in promotion/merit processes.
4. As assessment practices develop with TracDat, they will be integrated into the program review process and document production with reports stored in TracDat.
5. Departments will engage in discussions of the use of assessment data for improvement of educational practices in at least one department meeting per academic semester.