

**Departmental and Program Assessment
Annual Assessment Plan Report**

Academic Year: 2009-10 Chair: Jennifer Peszka

Academic Department, Program, General Education Unit: Psychology Department

Student Assessment Plan (SAP) – Basic Check-list – If your answers are “yes” a question in this section, no further explanation is necessary.

1. Is there a current assessment plan for your department, program, or general education component? Current implies that the department uses this SAP. It does not have to be rewritten unless your assessment plan has changed. It should be on the web at <http://www.hendrix.edu/academics/academics.aspx?id=7264>.

X yes no

If no, provide a timeline that will produce a plan by the end of the next academic year.

2. Does the current SAP include student learning goals? Departmental/programmatic/general education component student learning goals should be able to stand alone as a list without pages of explanatory commentary.

X yes no

If no, provide a timeline that will produce student learning goals by the end of the next academic year.

3. Does your SAP include a list of assessment data collected yearly? Assessment data lists should be able to stand alone without pages of explanatory commentary. Additionally, collected data should be of enough value to the department that it is read yearly. If not, it is probably not of sufficient use to collect.

X yes no

If no, provide a timeline that will produce an assessment data list by the end of the next academic year.

4. Are student learning goals available to students on the web on the departmental/programmatic page(s)?

X yes no

If no, provide a timeline that will produce student access to the learning goals by the end of the next academic year.

5. Are student learning goals, appropriate for each course, included in the course syllabi in your department or program?

X yes no

If no, provide a timeline that will produce student learning goals by the end of the next academic year.

6. Does your SAP include direct assessments? “Direct” refers to evaluated student work.

X yes no

If no, provide a timeline that will produce a direct student assessment tool by the end of the next academic year.

7. Describe which indirect assessments in your assessment plan have been collected for the year and which have not. “Indirect” refers to student surveys, interviews, or opinions.

X yes no

All indirect assessment data (the senior survey) has been collected. The survey data is currently being compiled into a report for distribution to the departmental faculty to serve as the topic of our assessment meeting in the fall.

If no, provide a timeline that will produce an indirect student assessment tool by the end of the next academic year.

Student Assessment Plan Development - Departments and programs who have a complete and current SAP should consider the next step in SAP development. *This could easily be the annual action item for your department or program (next section #5).*

1. As a next step in SAP development, departments/programs are encouraged begin working on an assessment audit to determine how student learning goals fit across the courses in the major. This could be as complicated as a full grid of student learning goals, or a single learning goal, across the courses in the major. (This has not been required of departments, but it is a recommended next step when the SAP is up to date.)

yes X no

If yes, please provide the results in either in prose or as a table.

Yearly Assessment Report – each department or program is expected to have assessment discussions for at least two hours each academic year. **Help is available from David Sutherland, just call or email.**

1. What was your planned action item identified in your last report?

Discuss and make plans to address concerns identified by our external reviewer during his spring visit last year.

2. Briefly summarize the topics discussed in your annual assessment meeting. (If you have not met this year, why not and when do you plan to meet?)

We met for 1 hour during the fall and 1 hour in the spring to specifically address assessment. Although, we discussed issues from Brewer's report during numerous additional meetings.

During the first assessment meeting we reviewed the results from the senior survey during 2008-2009. We are relatively happy that our students are happy. The issues raised as concerns are unfortunately beyond the ability of the department to address, and include the following: not enough computer space in the building laboratory, not enough copies of SPSS with repeated measure, not enough upper level courses, difficult to get into required courses. These are all issues we have brought up with administration and would like to see addressed. Further, they are issues that appeared in Brewer's report.

During the second assessment meeting we reviewed the assessment data identified in our assessment plan. One of the points in the plan involves undergraduate research conference attendance. A good deal of discussion followed regarding our new efforts to focus our energies on sending students to the Southwestern Psychological Association Meeting (SWPA) for a more meaningful conference experience than NCUR, the feasibility of supporting this properly; and the need to evaluate this process at the end of next year. Next, we went through the Brewer report item by item to discuss what progress was made this year, what progress we hope to make, and what issues the administration will have to help us to address.

3. What was the conclusion of your assessment discussion and how did the collected assessment data inform your conclusion? Specifically describe any curricular or programmatic changes that have been made that were based, at least in part, on the data in your SAP.

We have made good progress on some of the issues that Brewer mentioned in his report—all issues that are within the purview of the department. We have made very little progress on issues that are outside of our purview to change. Please see our department assessment response for full descriptions of each issue. A bulleted title and the current state of resolution for each item in the Brewer report is listed below.

- a. *Statistics and Research Methods are overenrolled*

This year we enrolled psychology majors regardless of bid points and seated all of our majors in Statistics. Research methods continues to be overenrolled.

- b. *Psych 480 should be changed to Senior Thesis*

We all agree that is an interesting idea but have nowhere even close to the faculty or financial resources to support such an endeavor.

c. Senior Capstone Confusion

Capstone description in the new catalog was changed to be more explicit.

d. Developmental Psychology should be covered more extensively

We requested a new tenure track position and were declined.

e. Collaborative research opportunities are too limited

We agree, but do not have the faculty or financial resources to increase this at this time.

f. Need greater frequency of advanced course offerings

We agree, but do not have the faculty or financial resources to increase this at this time.

g. Computer lab facilities are insufficient

We have started conversations with Information Technology and have requested that a move to a larger room in the building be made. Sam Nichols discussed the possibility of adding new computers to the laboratory but will reply later in the summer to the actual feasibility.

h. Students want more graduate school and career planning information

We added a new evening component to address graduate school issues and added more information to the departmental website.

i. Classroom technology needs improvement

We gave \$1700 departmental budget to Media Center combined with their budget we should be able to set up a permanent computer and projector in DWREY 11.

j. Awareness of faculty "generational differences"

Taken as a suggestion.

k. Need space protection from biology encroachment

Nothing can be done here as long as animal housing is not provided for Dr. Penner we can not use the laboratory space and as space is such a high commodity on campus we have lost that laboratory space to Biology.

l. Need more compute lab space, more computers and permanent teaching media equipment in all classrooms

Those issues were addressed earlier.

m. Need one or two new faculty members

Requested and denied for 2010-2011; requested for 2011-2012.

n. Need funding for summer student research

Nothing on the horizon

o. Need Animal Housing Facilities

Requested from capital expenses and denied in 2008-2009, 2009-2010.

p. Need more financial support for research and attendance at professional meetings.

Not forthcoming.

q. Need more administrative assistant help

Not forthcoming

r. Need more compensation for department chair duties

Not forthcoming

s. Need a scantron machine

We will endeavor to buy this out of the departmental budget during the 2010-2011 school year.

4. What are the plans for improving student learning in your unit?
- a. *We would like to continue to advocate for meeting the needs expressed by Brewer.*
 - b. *A subgroup of the department collaboratively identified unified learning goals for the Research Methods core course meant to help make sure that all sections of the basic course are covering skill development expected in higher level departmental courses. The list follows.*
 - * *Conduct literature reviews using the library and online databases.*
 - * *Generate good hypotheses with testable predictions.*
 - * *Use descriptive statistics to describe your data, and how to use inferential statistics to test hypotheses.*
 - * *Enter and analyze data using SPSS and how to interpret SPSS output.*
 - * *Collect behavioral data, using observational, survey, and archival data collection methods.*
 - * *Present research in a PowerPoint presentation that would be suitable for a professional research meeting.*
 - * *Write an abstract that would be suitable for a professional research meeting.*
 - c. *We would like to continue to develop a departmental culture of student attendance at the SWPA conference.*
- b. Define at least one new action item for your unit that will be a goal of your assessment discussions next year?

(This action item could be to work on the SAP or on the assessment audit to correlate student learning goals with specific courses, described above. It can (and perhaps should) be a very limited item.)

The assessment committee recommended that we begin an assessment audit, this idea was raised during our assessment meeting and is a suggestion for next year. We would also like to continue to pursue Brewer report findings that will help us meet our learning goals.