Departmental and Program Assessment
Annual Assessment Plan Basic Update

Academic Year: 2012-2013

Academic Unit: History

Chair: Deb Skok

Student Assessment Plan (SAP) – Basic Check-list

1. Have any changes been made to your program's student assessment plan or student learning goals? Your recent version should be on the web at http://www.hendrix.edu/academics/academics.aspx?id=7264. If you have made changes, then attach a copy of the new plan or goals.

    □ yes   X no

2. Are student learning goals available to students on the web on the departmental/programmatic page(s)? If not, then this will be considered as an action plan for the coming year.

    X yes   □ no *The learning goals have been available for several years on the departments page, although we recently updated the page to make them more visible.* http://www.hendrix.edu/history/history.aspx?id=2794

3. Are student learning goals, appropriate for each course, included in the course syllabi in your department or program? If not, then this will be considered as an action plan for the coming year.

    X yes   □ no

Student Assessment Plan Development - Departments and programs who have a complete and current SAP should consider the next step in SAP development.

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. Sometimes the term "scaffolding" is used to describe this process. 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.) Has your program already done this?

    X yes   □ no   *If yes, please provide any* **new** *results in either in prose or as a table. If no, then this could be the next annual action plan for your program.*

    The department has been discussing "scaffolding" since 2011. Through this process, we generated the list of learning goals which is currently available on our website. The department agreed that these goals reflect the learning goals of our courses.

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

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

    To examine the data from our student survey. At this time, the department has not made any major changes to its program on the basis of the survey. We will continue to collect the data and will reexamine the question when we have a longer-term picture.

2. Briefly summarize the topics discussed in your annual assessment meeting.

    This year, the department met in May and shared different student assessment techniques that we use in our classes. We provided each other with copies of assignments designed to assess student writing, reading comprehension, critical thinking skills, oral skills, and skills in understanding and formulating historical narratives and arguments. The department is and will remain opposed to standardizing our pedagogy, as each of us is unique in our approach. However, we have found that sharing ideas is very useful to each of us in nurturing our own teaching.

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 are working on compiling our individual assignments into a shared resource through Dropbox. The resource will be intended for departmental use only, and not shared with students.

    Further, we plan to add a resource for students to our website with writing guidelines. Specifically, our students need more guidance for citing their sources properly.

4. Define one new action item for your assessment discussions next year.

    See #3.