Departmental and Program Assessment
Annual Assessment Plan Basic Update

Academic Year: ___2012-13_____

Academic Unit: ____Africana Studies Program_____

Chair: __Carol West_____

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.

    □ Xyes   □ no

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.*

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?

   We planned to "reinstate the annual fall meeting for students interested in studying abroad in Africa (or planning Odyssey projects there), an event which also provides an opportunity to publicize the Africana Studies program." We did hold this meeting in the fall, attended both by students who had already completed study abroad or Odyssey projects in Africa and by those who were interested in doing so. Drs. Carol West, Allison Shutt, and Sarah Lee were also present to share information.

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

   With a nearly non-existent program budget, we discussed the challenges of providing supplementary activities for a program that is already limited in its disciplinary breadth and depth. We also discussed methods of tracking our Africana Studies minors in their post-Hendrix careers.

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 not made any curricular or programmatic changes, but we reaffirmed the importance of encouraging and assisting our students to study abroad in Africa, where they can take African Studies courses that are not available here. We also need to remain alert to opportunities to include Africa in the development of ongoing and new programs at Hendrix, such as Odyssey Professorship projects, the new "Engaged Citizen" component of the Collegiate Center, and the prospect of future Certificate programs.

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

   We need to launch a series of regular monthly meetings for Africana Studies students/minors and faculty as an opportunity to have informal discussions about contemporary issues in Africa and the African diaspora—and as contexts in which students and faculty can get better acquainted. Scheduling will obviously be a challenge, but this is a plan worth pursuing and ultimately assessing.