

Student Outcomes Assessment Committee  
End of Year Report  
1998-99

SOAC set 5 goals for the 98-99 school. The goals and the actions SOAC took to accomplish these goals are:

1. **Make measurable, assessable progress in implementing the Revised Student Outcomes Assessment Plan.**
  - Institutional Assessment: The Office of Institutional Research is continuing to collect data on 11 of 12 outcomes (the 12<sup>th</sup> is connected to implementation of General Education). IR regularly provides SOAC with data from this cohort study; the information will be collated and presented to the appropriate groups starting in Fall 1999. IR recommends that the outcome statements be revised to make the data more meaningful and assessable.
  - Out of Classroom Assessment: This subcommittee of SOAC has a new chair (Gail Bryan); in Fall 1999 it will begin to devise a plan, parallel to the GE implementation plan, that will assess the out of classroom student outcomes that have been developed by the committee in the past.
  - Program Assessment: SOAC is working with the Core Process Team to identify what measures are currently in place to assess programs.
  - Discipline/Instructional Assessment: Assessment has been integrated into all 5 areas identified in the Assessment Plan. However, there is no reporting form – a lack identified by NCA – for ensuring consistent application of outcomes assessment and no process for collecting, analyzing, and sharing assessment data.
2. **Develop and begin implementation of a plan that will enable OCC to meet NCA recommendations for improved use of assessment data.**
  - SOAC recommended the formation of a General Education Implementation Team, whose task would be to develop a process for integrating general education attributes into coursework, validating that appropriate assessment is occurring, and collecting and sharing assessment data. This process should allow a seamless move from the development of outcomes and assessment at the course level, to the development and revision of curriculum, through the periodic review of programs and disciplines.
  - SOAC has worked with the Galileo Leaders to pilot using Walvoord and Denton's Primary Trait Analysis as a method for collecting, documenting, and sharing assessment data. Results of this pilot will be shared with the GE Implementation Team.
3. **Work closely with the General Education, Curriculum, and Curriculum Review Committees in order to incorporate effective student outcomes assessment measures in each of these areas.**
  - SOAC applied for, and received, funds from the New Initiatives Resources to send a team consisting of members from Curriculum, Curriculum Review, and SOAC to the Assessment Institute sponsored by the National Center for the Study of Higher Education. Six people attended the conference; while there they developed a tentative process and timeline for the implementation of the General Education Attributes.
  - Members from each of the above committees comprise the GE Implementation Team.
4. **Expand membership on SOAC that includes a better representation by campus and discipline.**
  - Committee membership includes 12 members from various areas of the faculty, including English, Mathematics, Science, Social Science, IIC, Counseling, and Deans.
  - One campus, Royal Oak/Southfield, does not have a regularly attending member on the committee.
5. **Improve communication with the college community about outcomes assessment.**
  - Because of faculty's enthusiastic response to an assessment workshop conducted by Dr. Barbara Walvoord and Dr. Janice Denton in January 1998, a second workshop on Primary Trait Analysis was held on Staff Development Day; approximately 30-35 faculty attended.
  - In September, SOAC conducted a session on assessment for adjuncts.

- SOAC did not hold Brown Bag-type workshops this academic year for 2 reasons:
  1. Poor attendance – faculty who are resistant to outcomes assessment have not attended these workshops.
  2. Lack of focus – SOAC feels that a more effective way of reaching faculty will be to hold workshops on outcomes assessment in conjunction with workshops on the implementation process resulting from the work of the GE Implementation Team.

**SUMMARY:** The principles of outcomes assessment have been built into all, or virtually all, of the college's new initiatives in the last several years. However, SOAC's experiences in the past 2 years have left us convinced that outcomes assessment will be more broadly embraced by faculty only when it is embedded in a process that encompasses curriculum development and review. With that in mind, SOAC focused its efforts this year on the development of the GE Implementation Team, believing that the resulting process will serve as a model for the integration of outcomes assessment into all curriculum, provide the means for collecting and sharing assessment data, and help build a climate where faculty automatically integrate outcomes assessment into coursework. SOAC will have two major goals for the 1999-2000 school year: to provide staff development and support as the process for implementing the General Education model begins, and to use that process as the basis for collecting, analyzing, and sharing assessment data in all coursework. In addition, the college assessment plan, which was written in 1994 and revised in 1996, will be thoroughly reviewed and updated as necessary.