UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY

Assessment Report

Critical Thinking

Time Period: Fall 2016-Fall 2018

The Assessment Team seeks to collaborate with departments/programs/units to ensure that effective assessment of student learning occurs across the University. To assist in meeting this goal, the Team requests that you complete the Assessment Report for your specific program. This cycle, we ask all units to report on an outcome that focuses on or includes critical thinking.

Critical thinking has been a part of our Core Curriculum and will continue to be a part of the new Core Curriculum. By focusing on one area, we can evaluate where we are successful and provide guidance where we need to incorporate best practices to assist in achieving the stated student learning outcomes. In addition, this assessment of program learning outcomes will establish a baseline by which to compare current practices to those that will be developed once the new Core Curriculum is implemented. Last year our focus was on social responsibility and during the 2016-17 academic year our focus will be on critical thinking. All units should identify an outcome that focuses on or includes critical thinking. The emphasis on one area will continue as we move forward in the assessment process and as we prepare the assurance argument for our reaffirmation of accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission. The visit will occur in September 2016.

If your unit has already assessed an outcome related to critical thinking in the previous assessment report, and you did not have plans to look at this outcome again in this cycle, please let us know. You can look at another one of your student learning outcomes during this cycle.

There are three submissions required as part of the process, with each submission adding to the previously submitted material.

1. **First Submission: Due April 15, 2016.** Give general information about the program/unit, list student learning outcomes, and explain how assessment of learning outcomes will occur during the academic year 2016-17.
2. **Second Submission: Due September 30, 2017.** Report student learning strengths and weaknesses, what changes you will make to address those findings, and how will you implement the changes.
3. **Final submission: Due September 30, 2018.** Report the effectiveness of

the implemented changes.

Save the word document on your computer to allow you to return to the file for each subsequent submission.

**DUE DATES: PERTINENT SECTIONS**

April 15, 2016: Part I, Part II, and Part III Items 1-3

September 30, 2017 Part III Items 4-7

September 30, 2018 Part III Items 8-9

Submit all sections of the report to academicaffairs@udmercy.edu

Please note this is a template for the report. Additional space can be used to complete the information.

Part I. Program Information

Program Name:

Level: \_ Bachelor \_\_ Master’s \_\_ Doctoral \_\_ Minor \_\_\_ Other

Chair/Coordinator/Unit Head:

Email:Phone:

Reporter:

Email:Phone:

Part II. Student Learning Outcomes

The student learning outcomes for this program are available to our constituents on the UDM website.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_No

A description of student learning outcome statements and a number of examples of these are on the website of The National Institute of Learning Outcomes Assessment. The following information is from their website (http://www.learningoutcomeassessment.org/TFComponentSLOS.htm):

Student learning outcomes statements clearly state the expected knowledge, skills, attitudes, competencies, and habits of mind that students are expected to acquire at an institution of higher education. Transparent student learning outcomes statements are:

• Specific to institutional level and/or program level   
• Clearly expressed and understandable by multiple audiences   
• Prominently posted at or linked to multiple places across the website   
• Updated regularly to reflect current outcomes   
• Receptive to feedback or comments on the quality and utility of the information provided

List the learning outcomes for your program (or give the website where these are given).

Graduates of the program will:

This cycle, we are asking all units to report on an outcome that focuses on or includes critical thinking. Identify this outcome.

Part III. Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes

**DUE DATE FOR ITEMS 1-3: April 15, 2016**

Choose **one** outcome related to critical thinking to report on during the 2016-17 academic year. Describe the primary instrument you will use to assess that outcome. The primary instrument should be a direct measure that includes immediate evaluation of student performance such as a test, paper, project, etc. You may want to choose an embedded senior assignment since the goal is to obtain evidence of program outcomes, not course outcomes. You may use indirect measures in addition to the primary instrument. Indirect measures are less immediate but relevant evidence of student learning. Indirect measures include student reports on what they learned, graduate school admissions, job placement, etc. For each instrument, identify how the instrument will be evaluated, who will do this and when. For each indirect or direct measure, specify the benchmark or expectation for satisfactory performance. One suggestion for giving this information is to provide the rubric that will be used with specifics as to what level of competency is expected from the students. This rubric can be sent as an attachment by email when this report is submitted.

State the student learning outcome you will assess:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Embedded Assignment or Other Activity to Be Examined | 1. How is the embedded assignment or other activity evaluated and what is the expectation for satisfactory performance? | 1. Who is responsible for evaluation and when will it occur? |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**DUE DATE FOR ITEMS 4-7: September 30, 2017**

Each department/program/unit should schedule a meeting focused on assessment where the results from the analysis are discussed. At this meeting, the strengths and weaknesses of student learning in the outcome under consideration are identified. The observations of student performance should include how many students exceeded, met, or did not meet the expectation of satisfactory performance that you described in the previous section. Describe the changes in curriculum, instructions, etc. that will be implemented and how the action plan for implementation.

Student Learning Outcome #\_\_\_\_

1. Identify Major Student Learning Strengths:
2. Identify Major Student Learning Weaknesses:
3. Describe the changes agreed upon if the objective was not completely satisfied.
4. Describe the action plan for how changes will be implemented in 2017-18 to improve student learning:

**DUE DATE FOR ITEM 8: September 30, 2018**

Student Learning Outcome #\_\_\_\_

8. How effective was implementation of the action plan?

9. Describe when and how the student learning outcome will be evaluated again

REV: October 2013, December 2014, January 2015, January 2016