Student Learning Assessment:

A Commitment to Continuous Improvement in Teaching and Learning

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Overview

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## Student Learning Assessment

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| A cycle of teaching, learning, measurement, and program improvement that is systematic, explicit, documented and ongoing | For internal program purposes – “good practices” in program functioning and improvement  
For external purposes  
- NYU assessment initiative  
- Regional accreditation requirements (Middle States)  
- National focus on student learning assessment |
Middle States Focus on Assessment

- **Standard 2:** Planning, Resource Allocation, and Institutional Renewal
  - An institution conducts ongoing planning and resource allocation based on its mission and goals, develops objectives to achieve them, and utilizes the results of its assessment activities for institutional renewal. Implementation and subsequent evaluation of the success of the strategic plan and resource allocation support the development and change necessary to improve and to maintain institutional quality.

- **Standard 7:** Institutional Assessment
  - The institution has developed and implemented an assessment process that evaluates its overall effectiveness in achieving its mission and goals and its compliance with accreditation standards.

- **Standard 14:** Assessment of Student Learning
  - Assessment of student learning demonstrates that, at graduation, or other appropriate points, the institution’s students have knowledge, skills, and competencies consistent with institutional and appropriate higher education goals.
What do we want to accomplish via the assessment process?

Answer the following questions in a systematic, documented and explicit way:

1. What do we expect our students to learn?
2. What educational opportunities do we offer to support their learning?
3. How can we ensure that students are learning what we expect of them?
4. If we identify strengths and weaknesses in student performance, how can we adjust educational opportunities to better support student learning?
## Student Learning Assessment

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| ‣ All academic units at NYU – schools, departments, programs | ‣ Implement an assessment cycle:  
  ◦ Develop and implement an assessment plan  
  ◦ Use and document assessment results |
What is the Assessment Cycle?

An ordered 4-step process:
1. Establish student learning goals and objectives
2. Align educational opportunities (curriculum, instruction, learning supports) with learning goals
3. Measure student performance to determine how well students are reaching goals; identify strengths and weaknesses
4. Adjust educational opportunities as needed to target strengths and weaknesses
Assessment Plan

- Learning Goals and Objectives
- Educational Opportunities
- Assessment Measures

About a page
Documenting Progress

- Which goal(s) did you assess?
- How did you measure student performance?
- What were the results of the assessment?
- Why might these results have occurred?
- What improvements or changes will you make based on assessment findings?

About a page
# Student Learning Assessment

## When - Departments/Programs

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<th>Task</th>
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| Early April 2012| • Develop student learning goals  
|                 | • Determine which goal(s) you would like to assess first            |
| Early to Mid–Fall 2012 | • Outline objectives/ outcomes  
|                 | • Identify assessment methods and measures                           |
| Late Fall 2012  | • Assess student performance                                         |
| Spring 2013     | • Analyze assessment data  
|                 | • Determine educational intervention(s)  
|                 | • Submit Annual Assessment Report                                   |
| Fall 2013       | • Implement educational intervention(s)  
|                 | • Middle States accreditation visit – document review                |
# Student Learning Assessment

## When – Schools

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<th>Task</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid–Fall 2012</td>
<td>• Develop student learning goals</td>
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<tr>
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<td>• Ensure alignment of educational opportunities with goals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2012 to Spring 2013</td>
<td>If needed:</td>
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<td>• Adjust educational opportunities</td>
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<td>• Develop and implement assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2013</td>
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