**OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER**

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Every academic program is expected to have an outcomes assessment system in place and to document its effectiveness in an annual report to the university assessment committee. A quality outcomes assessment system advances student learning and promotes effective teaching as well as provides accountability information for university accreditation. This document describes the contents for the “assessment plan” that is initially required for all programs along with the “results report” due at the end of each academic year.

An **assessment plan** should include, at a minimum, the following:

1. The learning outcomes for the program (typically 3-10).
2. A matrix of learning experiences (such as courses, but also internships, etc.) and learning outcomes indicating where students have a significant opportunity to learn the skill or knowledge, such as:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Course 1 | Course 2 | Course 3 | Internship |
| Outcome 1 | X |  | X |  |
| Outcome 2 | X | X |  |  |
| Outcome 3 |  |  |  | X |

1. A detailed description of the assessment approaches that will be used, which can include a combination of direct (e.g., exams, projects) and indirect (student self-assessments, exit interviews with students) measures.
2. A matrix identifying where key assessments of learning will be carried out for each learning outcome, such as:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Course 1 | Course 2 | Course 3 | Internship |
| Outcome 1 | Assessment |  | Assessment |  |
| Outcome 2 |  | Assessment | Assessment |  |
| Outcome 3 |  |  |  | Assessment |

1. A schedule identifying when the assessments will be carried out, who will be administering and collecting the assessment results, and who will be preparing the annual assessment report.

A **Results Report** should include the **Assessment Plan**, along with the following:

1. The results of the assessments of student performance given for each learning outcome and organized in either a matrix or narrative format.
2. The program modifications that will be or were made based on the assessment results. Reports in future years should also include whether the program modifications made in previous years had the desired effects on student learning.