

University Assessment Committee (UAC) Annual Report for 2024–2025

May 2025

Members: Dale Telgenhoff (co-chair), Changiz Mohiyeddini (co-chair), Jacob Becker, Susan Beckwith, Darrin Hanna, Laura Schartman, Reuben Ternes (member as Assistant Director of OIRA), Song Yan (member as Director of OIRA), Rebecca Pratt, Jennifer Tillinger, Amanda Hess, Brenda Dzierzawski, Michelle Hammand, Jessica Harrell, Austin Murphy

Highlights of the Year's Work

Overall, the UAC reviewed 10 assessment plans and 23 assessment reports. The UAC subcommittees worked closely with several programs in an effort to improve assessment practices, including suggestions for the development of more measurable student learning outcomes, recommendations for more effective direct and indirect assessments, and advice on how to better analyze and present data in an assessment report.

Last year, the UAC worked with the OU Senate and Alumni Relations on an alumni survey that would provide some basic data about student learning for all recent graduates. This year, with assistance from OIRADA, that survey was implemented, data was collected, and results were organized and have started to go out to individual departments.

Assessment Award

This year's assessment award went to the undergraduate program in Physics in the College of Arts and Sciences. Their report demonstrates exceptional analysis and manages useful conclusions despite small sample sizes. These insights led to specific documented changes implemented within the program. Overall, the analysis was clean, articulate, and thoughtful. The UAC was also impressed with the clarity and diligence displayed by the department in responding to previous UAC comments. It is also clear from the report that the program has a strong history of assessment and continuous improvement and uses historical data to analyze trends and contextualize current findings.

Summary of the UAC's 2023-24 Activities in Relation to the Senate's Charge

1. *To coordinate and advise on the planning and implementation of assessment by academic units*
 1. The UAC distributes report due dates over a two-year cycle, so reports for approximately 25% of all programs/departments are due each semester. Department chairs receive a reminder each semester of any upcoming assessment reports for programs in their unit.
 2. UAC members work in teams, or subcommittees, to review plans and reports. Subcommittees provide summaries to the full UAC and prepare response letters for the programs/departments.
 3. When a program/department receives a letter responding to their plan or report, the UAC gives them the option of meeting with individuals from the UAC directly. If the team members have any questions or concerns about the plan or report, they will often meet face to face with a representative from the program/department to address their concerns before sending the response letter. These face-to-face meetings have proven to be very helpful for both the committee and the programs/departments.
 4. See the end of this report for a list of programs for which the UAC reviewed a plan and/or report this past academic year.
2. *To prepare an overall University Assessment Plan which meets the requirements of Higher Learning Commission and to consult with the staff of that Association, as appropriate, to ensure that the Plan and its implementation continue to meet Association standards*
 1. The overall university assessment plan was last revised and approved by the Senate in April 2018. The assessment committee will continue to evaluate their processes and make improvements as needed.
 2. Our plan template for external programs maps directly to the HLC language. We allow programs with external accreditation that have direct corollaries with the HLC language to use their accreditation process to satisfy UAC requirements. Programs that do not meet all of the HLC expectations must use the normal UAC assessment process. This helps streamline the process for both the UAC and for programs with external accreditation.
3. *To advise and cooperate with the General Education Committee in planning and carrying out assessment of the University's general education programs*
 1. One OIRA member (the Director of OIRA) sits on both the UAC and the GEAC and acts as a liaison, providing valuable insight to both committees and apprising each committee of the other's work.
 2. Beginning in 2017–18, the UAC has assumed responsibility for reviewing reports integrating Gen Ed capstone and program assessment. The UAC informs the GEAC on the status of any integrated reports as well as any feedback that UAC has on such reports.

4. *To advise the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, the University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction, and the Graduate Council on the findings of the assessment program and their implications for specific program reviews and for maintaining and improving the quality of undergraduate and graduate instruction in general*

We send copies of all response letters to the relevant deans and to the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.

5. *To report to the University Senate and the Assemblies of the organized faculties on the findings of the assessment program and their implications for maintaining and improving the quality of undergraduate and graduate curricula and instruction at the University*

This document serves as the report mentioned here.

Plans and External Mappings reviewed in 2023-2024

1. CAS - Studio Art (UG)
2. CAS - Master of Public Administration (Grad) External Map
3. CAS - Ecology (UG), New Program
4. CAS - Graphic Design (UG)
5. CAS - Biology (UG)
6. SEHS - External Map (Multiple Programs Related to CAEP)
7. SHS - Dietetics External Map (UG)
8. SHS - Clinical Diagnostic Sciences (UG)
9. SOM - Medical Sciences (MS)
10. UP - Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies

Reports reviewed in 2023-2024

1. CAS - Physics (UG)
2. CAS - English (UG)
3. CAS - Computational Physics, Grad (PhD)
4. CAS - Medical Physics, Grad (PhD)
5. CAS - Creative Writing (UG)
6. CAS - Biomedical Sciences (UG)
7. CAS - Psychology, Grad (PhD & MS)
8. SBA - Finance (UG)
9. SBA - General Management (UG)

10. SBA - Human Resource Management (UG)
11. SBA - Capstone (multiple programs - UG)
12. SECS - Electrical & Computer Engineering, Grad (PhD)
13. SECS - Electrical & Computer Engineering, Grad (MS)
14. SECS - Industrial & Systems Engineering, Grad (MS)
15. SECS - Systems Engineering, Grad (MS)
16. SECS - Engineering Management, Grad (MS)
17. SEHS - Higher Education Leadership, Grad (MA)
18. SEHS - Human Resource Development
19. SEHS - Early Childhood, Grad (MS)
20. SHS - Exercise Science, Grad (MS)
21. SHS - Exercise Science (UG)
22. SHS - Human Movement Science (PhD)
23. SON - Nursing, Grad (PhD)

Incoming Chairs for 2024-2025:

- Changiz Mohiyedinni
- Austin Murphy