

University Assessment Committee (UAC) Annual Report for 2023–2024

May 2024

Members: Austin Murphy (co-chair), Dale Telgenhoff (co-chair), Jacob Becker, Susan Beckwith, Deb Cash, Darrin Hanna, Jennifer Heisler(Fall)/Erin Meyers(Winter), Shawn McCann, Ed Rohn, Laura Schartman, Reuben Ternes (member as Assistant Director of OIRA), Jennifer Tillinger, Dawn Woods, Song Yan (member as Director of OIRA), Yun Ellen Zhu, Rebecca Pratt,

Note: Membership from the School of Nursing remained unfilled for the year.

Highlights of the Year's Work

Overall, the UAC reviewed 15 assessment plans and 13 assessment reports, including 8 plans for new programs. 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. In addition, the UAC continued its work with the Oakland University (OU) Senate and Alumni Relations to encourage the use of alumni surveys to provide departments with more opportunities to enhance the process of continuously improving student learning. After speaking with all parties involved, the UAC will partner with OIRADA and Alumni Relations to develop a pilot program to collect student learning data at the program level from Alumni. The creation of this pilot program is underway.

Professional Development Opportunities

On November 6th, the UAC and the GEAC hosted an afternoon 'Assessment Day' event, which featured speakers, programs, and departments from around the campus to talk about important assessment related topics.

Assessment Award

This year's assessment award went to the PhD program in Medical Physics in the College of Arts and Sciences. The UAC was very impressed with their assessment efforts, in which the program's assessment report provided an in-depth and detailed description of their assessment and analysis. It was clear that the program has fostered a culture of continuous improvement to ensure their students are up-to-date on the most in-demand skills and innovative tools and strategies in their field. In particular, we were

impressed with the specificity of their assessment measures, their explanation of how student learning has improved year over year, and their supporting documentation.

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.
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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 - Dance (External Mapping), UG
2. CAS - Data Science (New Program), UG
3. SECS - Data Science (New Program, External Mapping), UG
4. CAS - Studio Art, UG
5. CAS - Integrated Science, UG
6. CAS - English, Grad
7. SECS - Energy Engineering (New Program), Grad
8. SECS - Data Science in Engineering (New Program), Grad
9. SBA - Economics, UG
10. SECS - Mechatronics & Robotics (New Program, External Mapping), UG
11. SECS - Bioengineering (New Program), Grad
12. CAS - Anthropology, UG
13. CAS - Psychology, UG
14. SOM - Medical Science (New Program), Grad
15. CAS - Smart Manufacturing (New Program), Grad

Reports reviewed in 2023-2024

1. CAS – Journalism, UG
2. CAS - International Relations, UG (with plan revisions)
3. CAS - Sociology, UG (Integrated Capstone Report)
4. CAS - Physics, Grad (with plan revisions)
5. SHS - Clinical Diagnostic Sciences, UG (with plan revisions)
6. CAS - Philosophy, UG
7. SEHS - Language, Literature, and Culture, Grad
8. CAS - Women & Gender Studies, UG
9. CAS - Communication, UG (Integrated Capstone Report)
10. CAS - Criminal Justice, UG
11. CAS - Writing, UG
12. SECS - Mechanical Engineering, Grad (MS) (with plan revisions)
13. SECS - Mechanical Engineering, Grad (PhD)

Incoming Chairs for 2024-2025:

- Dale Telgenhoff (dtelgenhoff@oakland.edu)
- One more co-chair to be identified next year