

**Common Learning Outcome 3: Engage in intensive study**

Hope graduates contribute as lifelong learners to their fields of study through continued creation and evaluation of their disciplines' major discoveries, significant thought, methodologies, technical procedures, current practices, and challenges.

**Assessment Tools**

Common Learning Outcome 3 assessment uses four assessment tools: results from academic program learning outcomes assessment, the National Survey of Student Engagement, Hope's Six-Months Out Graduate Survey, and the National Alumni Career Mobility Survey.

Individual academic program direct and indirect assessments of student learning using department-identified measures.

The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) indirect assessment using a standardized, benchmarked tool developed by Indiana University. Outcome 3 assessment uses the High Impact Practices section of the NSSE survey.

The Hope-developed Six-Months Out Graduate Survey is an indirect assessment of items related to employment, preparation for employment, graduate school enrollment, and preparation for graduate school. Items align with the National Association of Colleges and Employers First Destination Survey.

The National Alumni Career Mobility Survey assesses Hope student success at 5 and 10 years after graduation. It is an indirect assessment using a standardized, nationally benchmarked tool. Variables include career success, preparation for employment, community engagement and service, and other career success variables.

**Assessment Schedule**

Results from the following assessments are reviewed every two years in the summer of even years by teams of faculty, staff, and students organized by the Assessment Committee.

Academic programs completed assessments of student learning outcomes according to their faculty-developed and published assessment plans.

The National Survey of Student Engagement is completed by first-year and senior students in the Spring of each even year.

The Six-Months Out Graduate Survey is administered each fall to students graduating in the previous academic year.

The NACM survey is administered to individuals who graduated from Hope 5 or 10 years previously.

### **Assessment Targets**

Annual results of program assessments meet program-determined student learning targets.

Hope seniors' mean NSSE score for each High Impact Practice item will be equal to or greater than that of our Carnegie Class institutions.

Among respondents to the Six-Months Out Graduate Survey, 96% are either employed in their field of study or/and graduate school. Ninety-five percent feel very well or well prepared for graduate school. Ninety-five percent feel more prepared, or prepared about the same, for their current role as their colleagues.

Results from the NACM survey indicate that Hope graduates who are five and ten years out feel more prepared for their careers than our comparison group of private institutions.

### **Assessment Sample and Process**

#### **Assessment sample**

Two years of completed academic program assessment compiled in a report by the Frost Center for Data and Research. The report includes the percentage of program assessments that met the identified target.

Senior responses to the High Impact Practices measures from the most recent NSSE Administration. All senior students receive a series of invitations and email reminders administered by Indiana University. Aggregate results, comparison reports, and individual student scores are provided to the Frost Center for Data and Research.

The Six-Months Out Graduate Survey is administered each fall to students graduating in the previous academic year. The Frost Center for Data and Research compiles and publishes results each Spring Semester.

The NACM survey is completed by individuals who graduated from Hope 5 or 10 years previously. The Office of Alumni and Family Engagement coordinates the survey with a report of results provided by the vendor.

#### **Assessment process**

In the summer of each even year, staff and faculty members and Student Congress representatives participate in the Common Learning Outcome 3 assessment using the results from the above four samples. Compensation for faculty member's assessment work is at the rate approved by the Deans' Council. The Assessment Committee and the Director of Assessment and Accreditation lead the assessment process.

Members of the assessment team receive the report from the previous assessment of Common Learning Outcome 3 and results from the four assessments described above. The assessment team convenes for a half-day discussion of the results and develops recommendations for action to improve student learning. They also consider any changes needed in the assessment targets.

The Director of Assessment and Accreditation prepares a summary of the Common Learning Outcome 3 assessment results, discussion, and recommendations. It is approved by the assessment team and provided to the Assessment Committee for review and approval in the Fall Semester of that year.

The Director of Assessment and Accreditation maintains data reports, assessment reports, and other documentation and correspondence related to this assessment within the shared data storage of the Frost Center for Data and Research.

### **Review of Results**

Following their review and approval of the Common Learning Outcome 3 Assessment Report, the Assessment Committee shares the report and recommendations for actions to improve student learning with the Academic Affairs Board and the Deans' Council. The report is made available to the campus community through the Assessment Portal. The Assessment Committee and Director of Assessment and Accreditation are responsible for tracking the actions taken in response to the recommendations.