

2017-2018 Assessment Cycle UC_Student Support Services - STEM

Mission (due 12/4/17)

University Mission

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette offers an exceptional education informed by diverse worldviews grounded in tradition, heritage, and culture. We develop leaders and innovators who advance knowledge, cultivate aesthetic sensibility, and improve the human condition.

University Values

We strive to create a community of leaders and innovators in an environment that fosters a desire to advance and disseminate knowledge. We support the mission of the university by actualizing our core values of equity, integrity, intellectual curiosity, creativity, tradition, transparency, respect, collaboration, pluralism, and sustainability.

University Vision

We strive to be included in the top 25% of our peer institutions by 2020, improving our national and international status and recognition.

College / VP and Program / Department Mission

Mission of College or VP-area

Provide the mission for the College or VP-area in the space provided. If none is available, write "None Available in 2017-2018."

MISSION – University College provides an academic environment to facilitate the matriculation of a diverse population of intellectually-capable undergraduate students: wishing to pursue a unique and coherent interdisciplinary program of study in an area in which there does not exist an established curriculum; who initially selected a major for which they lack the interest or preparation necessary for success, but possess a specific and attainable career development plan; or who are transitioning into other colleges and pursuing the academic requirements necessary for admission into their preferred major. In meeting the needs of these students, University College promotes retention at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, collaborates with other colleges to elevate to the collective quality of campus learning, and enables and empowers students to achieve success in their chosen field of graduate study and/or occupation. Indeed, a distinguishing characteristic of the college is its program of intensive developmental initiatives geared toward enhancing student accomplishment.

VISION – To become a college of choice for incoming freshmen desiring to pursue an individualistic multidisciplinary curriculum founded in a strong core of liberal education that imbues students with broad knowledge, transferable skills, and a strong sense of civic duty.

Mission of Program / Department

Provide the program / department mission in the space provided. The mission statement should concisely define the purpose, functions, and key constituents. If none is available, write "None Available in 2017-2018."

The Student Support Services STEM Program (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) is designed to assist first generation, low-income, and or a small number of students with disabilities who are in need of academic support in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics area. The broader mission of this project is to ensure that there is a climate of institutional support for those students who are from first generation and/or low income backgrounds. The mission and purpose of SSS-STEM Program assists in forwarding the mission of the university in regard to diversity and integration.

Attachment (optional)

Upload any documents which support the program / department assessment process.

Assessment Plan (due 12/4/17)**Assessment Plan (Goals / Objectives, Assessment Measures and Criteria for Success)****Assessment List**

Goal/Objective	RETENTION STEM participants served by the SSS project will persist from one academic year to the beginning of the next academic year. Semester and CUM GPA's are obtained from the UL Lafayette ISIS database after each semester, monitored by the SSS staff, and maintained electronically and in hard copy program files for the 120 current students.(Imported)								
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Goal/Objective	ACADEMIC STANDING All enrolled participants served by the SSS STEM project will meet the performance level required to stay in good academic standing at the grantee institution.(Imported)						
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The primary purpose of assessment is to use data to inform decisions and improve programs (student learning) and departments (operations); this is an on-going process of defining goals and expectations, collecting results, analyzing data, comparing current and past results and initiatives, and making decisions based on these reflections. In the space below, describe the program's or department's overall plan for improving student learning and/or operations (the "assessment plan"). Consider the following:

- 1) What strategies exist to assess the outcomes?
- 2) What does the program/department expect to achieve with the goals and objectives identified above?
- 3) How might prior or current initiatives (improvements) influence the anticipated outcomes this year?
- 4) What is the plan for using data to improve student learning and/or operations?
- 5) How will data be shared within the Program/Department (and, where appropriate, the College/VP-area)?

Assessment Process

As a College that offers a wide range of academic support programming to achieve student success, our collective assessment is based on the Council for Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (known as CAS). Our overall strategy primarily involves around student performance and feedback data that is analyzed using both formative and summative evaluation processes. The main goal is to improve our service delivery protocols that impact student performance through dynamic engagement and feedback from administrators, support staff, student employees, campus partners and students enrolled in our varied University College programs: On-campus and Off-campus Trio Programs, Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) Curriculum (campus based and online students), and the UL Lafayette Honors Program.

Guided by specific and measurable annual objectives, each subdivision of the College is expected to use student performance data to assess the extent to which each program has met its unique goals, targets, and objectives that independently and collectively impact student retention and graduation. Five principles guide our Division's collection and use of data:

1. The Division's leadership fosters a culture where team members are not afraid of data. Rather the culture is designed to encourage honest assessments to be used to improve student outcomes and not to penalize staff efforts or shortcomings.
2. The Division stresses the use of a variety of sources to validate data and to show patterns of improvement or need for improvement that shape new or modified service delivery.
3. The Division encourages using data to identify gaps in student learning. Using data from multiple sources is helpful in identifying hidden performance gaps and support opportunities. The University's retention and graduation rates are key benchmarks for measuring the Division's contributions and/or opportunities for improvement.
4. The Division encourages extensive dialogue among all team members to reflect upon improvement opportunities and achievements. For example, regarding Off and On-Campus Trio programs, continuity of services is monitored to leverage limited resources that impact maximum student outcomes. Other examples of Inter-program partnerships are hiring former Trio Participants and Honor students as Peer-tutors and student employees and connecting BGS majors to Trio services are key in leveraging student performance outcomes.
5. The Division encourages the use of data that is not removed from the day-to-day functions of supporting students. Monitoring the daily use of services--from tutoring to advising to Honor's Learning Communities participation—staff are required to use multiple data sources daily as building blocks to make adjustments as needed throughout the assessment cycle to improve services and student performance.

Data are shared with individual team members, College wide and University wide partners and stakeholders periodically throughout the assessment cycle and annually to prepare for the new cycle and for establishing new targets. Ultimately, assessment data are used by the University College Dean who consults with the Vice President of Academic Affairs on at least a quarterly basis to measure the College's contributions to the University's mission.

Results & Improvements (due 9/15/18)

Results and Improvement Narratives

Assessment List Findings for the Assessment Measure level for RETENTION STEM participants served by the SSS project will persist from one academic year to the beginning of the next academic year. Semester and CUM GPA's are obtained from the UL Lafayette ISIS database after each semester, monitored by the SSS staff, and maintained electronically and in hard copy program files for the 120 current students.(Imported)

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Reflection (Due 9/15/18)

Reflection

The primary purpose of assessment is to use data to inform decisions and improve programs and operations; this is an on-going process of defining goals and expectations, collecting results, analyzing data, comparing current and past results and initiatives, and making decisions based on these reflections. Recalling this purpose, respond to the questions below.

1) How were assessment results shared in the program / department?

Please select all that apply. If "other", please use the text box to elaborate.

Distributed via email (selected)

Presented formally at staff / department / committee meetings (selected)

Discussed informally (selected)

Other (explain in text box below)

The Academic Counselor received annual reports on the outcomes of the students in the caseload and met the Director and Secretary to discuss the overall outcomes based on the Annual Performance Report. Opportunities for improvement focused on freshman math achievement goals (Math 109, Math 110, Calculus 250 and 270) for students who will participate in the Summer 2017 Summer Success Program operating under SSS STEM.

2) How frequently were assessment results shared?

Frequently (>4 times per cycle)

Periodically (2-4 times per cycle) (selected)

Once per cycle

Results were not shared this cycle

3) With whom were assessment results shared?

Please select all that apply.

Department Head (selected)

Dean / Asst. or Assoc. Dean

Departmental assessment committee

Other faculty / staff

4) Consider the impact of prior applied changes. Specifically, compare current results to previous results to evaluate the impact of a previously reported change. Demonstrate how the use of results improved student learning and/or operations.

During the last assessment cycle, our SSS team examined the impact that the passage or failure of freshman level math coursed had on cohort students graduation outcomes. While our previous strategy has seemed to work and has reduced the number of failures in freshman math courses across disciplines, we want to also connect with those students who are not always available for help during our office hours. We have began to implement online services through our moodle account to offer workshops and tutorial services to all students in the program. So far feedback has been positive and students have utilized our online services as well as the tutorial lab in our building.

5) Over the past three assessment cycles, what has been the overall impact of "closing the loop"? Provide examples of improvements in student learning, program quality, or department operations that are directly linked to assessment data and follow-up analysis.

Over the past three years we have put a major focus on training staff members to be better counselors. We have accomplished this by attending various training on topics including intrusive counseling. We have also began to make ourselves more available by adjusting some of our operations to keep up with the change in technology and the way students utilize online programs. We now communicate with students online through text messages, emails, and moodle which has allowed us to form closer relationships with the students and give them confidence that we will be there when needed.

Attachments (optional)

Upload any documents which support the program / department assessment process.