Ten Characteristics Of An Assessment Program As Addressed By The UW-Platteville Strategic Plan

The purpose of this appendix is to indicate, on the following pages, selected assertions and initiatives from the UW-Platteville Strategic Plan (April 2002), which have assessment implications. Correspondence with one of the "Ten Characteristics of an Assessment Program" (Higher Learning Commission) is denoted by a bracketed numeral, as follows:

(An excellent assessment plan:)

1. flows from the institution's mission;
2. has a conceptual framework;
3. has faculty ownership/responsibility;
4. has institution-wide support;
5. uses multiple measures;
6. provides feedback to students and the institution;
7. is cost-effective;
8. does not restrict or inhibit goals of access, equity, and diversity established by the institution;
9. leads to improvement; and
10. has a process in place for evaluating the assessment program.

University of Wisconsin-Platteville Strategic Plan

Vision

The University of Wisconsin-Platteville is among the finest public undergraduate teaching universities in the upper Midwest, with programs that focus on the total development of each student, ensure graduates' abilities to make a successful transition from college to career, and provide a solid foundation for lifelong learning and responsible citizenship. In addition, the university serves as a major center for cultural and outreach activities.

Basic Values

To realize its vision, the University of Wisconsin-Platteville embraces and is guided by the following values:

- excellence in undergraduate education and in targeted graduate programs [1], [9];
- liberal education as a basis for lifelong learning, growth, and professional development [1], [2];
• ethical behavior
• students as the primary focus for university activities;
• respect for individual differences and support for the development of all students, faculty, and staff [8];
• people as the source of strength, reputation, and vitality;
• the pursuit of knowledge and its practical application, and applied research [2];
• learning and development which occur inside and outside the classroom; and
• service to the community and society.

Theme: High Quality Education

The University of Wisconsin-Platteville recognizes that students learn in different ways and that education is a dynamic process. Faculty and staff will take a leadership role in developing a creative, exciting, and effective learning environment. [3] Resources will be dedicated to support the innovation and risk-taking necessary to achieve this goal. Teaching designed to enhance learning by all students and to meet their continuing and changing needs will be expected, supported, and rewarded. The university will create and maintain a community of colleagues who share the process of establishing high quality teaching practices and a culture of continuous examination and improvement of such practices. [9]

Initiatives:

1. Recognize the crucial and central role played by liberal studies in preparing students to become thoughtful and insightful citizens. [1], [2]
2. Require, support, evaluate, and reward ongoing professional development, which motivates faculty and staff to perform with excellence. [2], [3], [9]
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9. Recognize and support educational practices that include diversity issues as part of the curriculum. [8]

Theme: Academic Advising

Initiatives:

1. Assess students and advisor needs by surveying students and faculty about current advising needs and expectations. [6]

Theme: Human Resources
Initiatives:

1.
2.
3. Initiate and encourage a team-focused approach to university activities where appropriate [3]

Theme: Fiscal Resources

Initiatives:

1.
2. Evaluate the academic structure of the university to introduce changes that are educationally sound and fiscally efficient. [5], [7], [9]

Theme Objectives: High Quality Education

- Survey and evaluate the program assessment models used throughout campus. [4], [5], [10]
- Initiate a five-year cycle to assess general education courses to assure their continuing conformity to established criteria and standards. [1], [6], [9]