

# **Wilmington University**

## **College of Business**

### **Outcomes Assessment Plan**

2023 - 2024

#### **Introduction**

The Wilmington University Academic Affairs Outcomes Assessment Plan (AAOAP) identifies the mission of Wilmington University as “rooted firmly in building exemplary and innovative academic programs,” within the context of a student-centered environment. Outlined in this document is the College of Business’ (COB) plan for assessing learning outcomes across each of its undergraduate and graduate programs. By design, it is consistent with the Academic Affairs Outcomes Assessment Plan and Wilmington University’s Mission and includes data planning, collection, analysis, and reporting cycles.

The College of Business works to assess and improve academic offerings using the following processes:

- Annual COB Retreat. During the retreat the College works collaboratively to develop Strategic Initiatives for the academic year. These initiatives are aligned to the University Strategic Initiatives. The COB Strategic Plan is updated and the “On the Horizon” activities are identified. A point person for each activity is assigned and the college works together throughout the year to complete the identified activities.
- Bi-annual Program Chair Report Out. During January and May of each year, Program Chairs report on program-specific data points that assess student learning, teaching effectiveness and program outcomes.
- Annual Performance Plans. The Performance Plans are developed in August of

individual goals for the academic year. These goals are aligned to the COB Strategic Plan and are assessed mid-year to ensure faculty are on schedule with timeliness. Necessary modifications/updates are updated at this time.

- **Peregine Examination.**The College of Business adopted the Peregrine Examination as a comprehensive, nationally-normed instrument to assess identified Outcome Measures. These measures are established as part of the IACBE Outcome Assessment and Interim Quarterly Reporting processes. Each program is assessed after each semester and data is collected to identify areas for improvement/change. Specific outcomes will be described in the Assessment of Learning section.

### **Key Factors in the COB Outcomes Assessment Plan**

Provides steps to preserve and improve teaching effectiveness, student learning, student satisfaction, and promotion of educational values;

Provides for consistency with the Academic Affairs Assessment strategy and the Institutional Priorities;

Data collection, recording, and analysis are formalized to provide guidance for continuous improvement as well as maintenance and sustainability;

A “four-pronged approach to assessment” as outlined in the AAP plan is utilized for assessment. The four prongs are: Assessment of Teaching Effectiveness; Assessment of Student Satisfaction; Assessment of Learning Outcomes; and Promotion of Educational Values. The first three assessment prongs include benchmarks and assessment tools; the fourth prong, Promoting Educational Values, “while not directly measured, are values the faculty wishes to develop among students” (AAOAP, 2021).

#### **I. Assessment of Teaching Effectiveness**

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data-driven decision-making opportunities. The assessment methodology includes formative and summative data and a program-embedded student examination. A bi-annual review of program-specific measures such as enrollment, retention, graduation rates, and adjunct professional development and promotion offers a snapshot of activities.

### III. Assessment of Learning Outcomes

A third prong involved in “Outcomes Assessment”, i.e. *satisfaction surrounding a student’s academic experience within the College and the Institution*, is a parameter of the COB Assessment Plan. The COB adopted the nationally-normed Peregrine comprehensive examination at the program level to assess student learning. Additionally, the COB adopted Skillabi to ensure student-learning is aligned to the industry skill demands and needs. The results are compiled by program and close the loop items are identified for both Skillabi and the comprehensive examination. Annual Program Reviews also provide data that assist in the alignment of academic program content to industry demands. Bi-annually Program Chairs analyze and assess individual program outcomes. Below is a listing of the data points analyzed and the reporting timeline:



In addition, academic programs at Wilmington University currently complete a Three-Year Program Review process. Since our mission is to provide relevant curricula and career-oriented

degree programs, and in response to the changing external environment, the program review process now includes One-Year Program Snapshots which specifically look at factors pertaining to enrollment, retention, and graduation. Program Reviews and the following criteria serve as our “purpose” behind conducting a program review:

1. To improve programs.
2. To demonstrate responsiveness to constituencies.
3. To provide information for decision making (e.g., allocation of resources, program revision and discontinuation).
4. To formally report outcomes assessment of student learning activities

During this reporting period the COB conducted the one-year snapshot for all programs. A detailed report was developed and closing the loop items were identified. Additionally, all programs were assessed based on five categories: Invest, Maintain, Monitor, Evaluate or Sunset.

The COB is accredited through the International Accreditation Council for Business Education (IACBE). The outcomes assessment requirements provide the college with the opportunity to align IACBE outcomes to University and College outcomes. This helps to create a rigorous academic offering that aligns to national standards. Accreditation outcomes are analyzed after each semester and reported to IACBE via an Interim Quarterly Reporting (IQAR) tool. Additionally, program and course modifications are under continuous review and analysis.

The Dean serves as both a Regional and National board member to IACBE. This relationship helps to ensure academic rigor is comparable to other accredited institutions of similar size and population.

#### **IV. Promotion of Educational Values**

The Faculty Senate of Wilmington University has developed a set of educational values. These values are actively promoted by faculty. Academic Affairs will provide a status report regarding the Promotion of Educational Values on an annual basis.





Economics  
Economics: Macroeconomics  
Economics: Microeconomics  
Global Dimensions of Business  
Information Management Systems  
Legal Environment of Business  
Management  
Management: Human Resource Management  
Management: Operations/Production Management  
Management: Organizational Behavior  
Marketing  
Quantitative Research Techniques and Statistics

### **Graduate Competencies (Peregrine Examination)**

#### **Master of Science in Accounting:**

Accounting  
Accounting and the Business Environment  
Auditing  
Business Communications  
Business Ethics in Accounting  
Business Finance  
Global Dimensions of Business Accounting  
Leadership in Accounting  
Taxation: Corporations

#### **Master of Business Administration:**

Business Communications  
Business Ethics  
Business Finance  
Business Integration and Strategic Management  
Business Leadership  
Global Dimensions of Business  
Marketing  
Quantitative Research Techniques and Statistics

#### **Master of Science in Management:**

Business Communications  
Business Ethics  
Business Integration and Strategic Management



Business Leadership  
Global Dimensions of Business  
Information Management Systems  
Legal Environment of Business  
Management  
Management: Organizational Behavior

### **Doctorate of Business Administration:**

Demonstrated advanced knowledge and competencies around a specific business industry;  
Literature review logically & adequately assesses key scholarly work;  
Effectively integrated alternate, divergent or contradictory perspectives or ideas fully  
Demonstrated effective research skills; executed a plan to complete a significant study; Research methods appropriate & thoroughly described  
Demonstrated understanding of how to analyze data; analyze existing theories to draw data-supported conclusions; Analysis procedures appropriate  
Presented scholarly work via appropriate communication channels

### **University Competencies include:**

#### **Undergraduate Competencies**

##### **Oral Communication**

- Appraise the needs of the audience and then speak in a clear and succinct manner.
- Research, construct, and deliver professional presentations using a variety of communication tools and techniques.

##### **Written Communication**

- Write with clarity and precision using correct English grammar: mechanics (punctuation) and usage (sentence structure and vocabulary).
- Exhibit competence in writing for specific purposes, diverse audiences, and genres.
- Correctly and ethically present scholarly writings utilizing the selected citation and writing style deemed appropriate for the student's program of study.

**Disciplined Inquiry**

- Employ critical thinking strategies such as quantitative, qualitative, and scientific reasoning to analyze consequences and outcomes and then determine logical solutions.

**Information Literacy**

- Using information in any format, research, evaluate, and ethically utilize information effectively and with appropriate attribution.

**Ethics**

- Demonstrate knowledge and application of prescribed ethical codes and behaviors related to the student's academic discipline.

## **Graduate-level Graduation Competencies**

### **Oral Communication**

- Appraise the needs of the audience and then speak in a clear and succinct manner.
- Research, construct, and deliver professional presentations using a variety of communication tools and techniques.

### **Written Communication**

- Write with clarity and precision using correct English grammar: mechanics (punctuation) and usage (sentence structure and vocabulary)
- Exhibit competence in writing for specific purposes, diverse audiences, and genres.
- Correctly and ethically present scholarly writings utilizing the selected citation and writing style deemed appropriate for the student's program of study.

### **Disciplined Inquiry**

- Employ critical thinking strategies such as quantitative, qualitative, and scientific reasoning to analyze consequences and outcomes and then determine logical solutions.

### **Information Literacy**

- Using information in any format, research, evaluate, and ethically utilize information effectively and with appropriate attribution.

### **Ethics**

- Demonstrate knowledge and application of prescribed ethical codes and behaviors related to the student's academic discipline.

## Definitions

**Formative Assessment:** According to the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (2006), “formative assessment is ongoing assessment that is intended to improve an individual student’s performance” and “is used internally, primarily by those responsible for teaching a course or developing a program” (p. 27). Course-embedded outcomes assessment conducted in some or all courses is done to improve the course content, provide feedback to faculty and program administrators, assist faculty to integrate the concept of outcomes assessment as a routine part of their instruction, and provide consistent evaluation parameters that will inform both students and faculty of expectations. Formative assessment results are the purview of the academic program and College and are not reported at the University level although the program may track the information.

**Summative Assessment:** Assessments at this level are intended to provide a true gauge of “outcomes” of the students’ experiences at the University. Results are used to evaluate the extent to which program goals have been achieved. Summative data are generally collected in one to four courses near program completion (except for College of Education and Liberal Arts courses). Each program includes course-embedded assessments that are conducted in selected courses throughout the program of study. Each course-embedded project, test, portfolio, or other student learning experience may assess several program competencies.

**Direct Evidence:** Direct evidence of student learning indicates whether or not a student has a command of a specific subject content area, can perform a certain task, exhibits a particular skill, demonstrates a certain quality in his/her work, or holds a particular value (Middle States, 2006). Examples of such measures include course homework assignments, term papers and reports,

rubrics, research projects, etc. at the course level as well as capstone projects and employer or supervision ratings of student performance at the program level.

**Indirect Evidence:** Indirect evidence of student learning is correlational -- meaning that



# WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC AFFAIRS ASSESSMENT PLAN

