

University of Florida Division of Student Affairs
Assessment Plan 2007-2008
revised spring 2008

Assessment is directly linked to the mission of the Division of Student Affairs at the University of Florida. That mission is:

to provide opportunities for student engagement,
learning and discovery in a diverse environment
that will optimize their university experience and
prepare them to serve a global community.

In pursuit of our vision and mission the Division of Student Affairs has identified eight Key Strategic Areas (KSA's). In order to achieve our vision and mission, we must be excellent in these areas as a division:

- Student Learning and Engagement
- Global Understanding and Diversity
- Communication and Collaboration
- Assessment
- Human Resources
- Resource Acquisition and Utilization
- Technology and Process Improvement
- Facilities

Student Learning and Engagement and Global Understanding and Diversity will be the guiding KSA's for the 2007-2008 assessment plan.

Student Learning and Engagement

Since the 1980s, institutions of higher education have recognized the educational value of student learning inside as well as outside the classroom. We now understand learning also occurs in places and experiences like residence halls, student organizations, Greek-letter organizations, recreational sports, community service, and many other interactions outside the classroom. As members of the learning community, it is our duty to explore meaningful avenues to maximize the learning benefit of our programs and services.

Global Understanding and Diversity

The world is changing rapidly—advancing technology, global communication and commerce, greater ethnic and gender diversity in the work force. Today's college graduates participate and compete in a global economy. The convergence of personal computers, fiber-optic cable, and work-flow software enable people all over the globe to collaborate on the same digital content. Today's graduates have more opportunity than ever to "act global" as individuals; they must think of themselves as individuals collaborating and competing with individuals all over the world.

The seven departments in Student Affairs each contribute to some subset of the Key Strategic Areas. Departments demonstrate contributions through their core activities.

Core activities define what each department does on a day-to-day basis. The goals for each department in the Strategic Plan should assist in defining core activities. Core activities usually are not simply one program, service, or project, but are defined broadly and could include multiple items which comprise the core activities.

Core activities are measured according to:

1. Cost
2. Magnitude (demographics, numbers)
3. Needs/Satisfaction
4. Outcomes (learning or other type)

Each department will conduct an evaluation of two-three core activities within their department (based on the four measures listed above), and write an assessment report based on one research question about one outcome. That evaluation can use quantitative or qualitative (or both) analyses of the core activities, including program quality, student satisfaction, and outcomes. The outcome should be a learning outcome, if that is relevant to the core activity.

Timeline for Submission of Assessment Reports:

June 1, 2008: Each department submits their *Preliminary Assessment Report* to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, which identifies selections for their two or three core activities. Those core activities should be related to Student Learning and Engagement and/or Global Understanding and Diversity. Under each core activity, list which programs, services, or projects will be included in the Final Assessment Report. It is recommended to begin outlining how those core activities will be measured according to the four measures. In addition, the department will submit their intended in-depth research question for assessment of one outcome related to one core activity in the department. The department should indicate what support/training they need from the Assessment Committee.

December 1, 2008: Each department submits its written *Final Assessment Report*, consisting of the results of the *Assessment Question* and the *Core Activities Analysis*. This Final Assessment Report will be used in the 2007-08 annual report.

Core Activities Analysis: Each department should discuss two or three core activities and provide analysis and discussion with supporting information for each of the four measures provided (cost, magnitude, needs/satisfaction, and outcomes). Methodologies should be explained.

Assessment Question: Each department shall answer one assessment question related to a learning outcome. The assessment question should be related to a project which is under Student Learning and Engagement, or Global Understanding and Diversity. The assessment question is designed to help the department understand how students are learning, engaged, or involved in departmental programs and services. The goal is to understand how students are learning, engaged or involved in the division's services and programs. By measuring one outcome (learning or other) of one activity, the department can examine the impact. As part of the Final Assessment Report, departments shall also respond to the following questions in their analysis:

- A. What question was asked? What group of individuals did the question focus on?
- B. Describe how the question was answered.
- C. What did you learn from the assessment?
- D. What actions did or will the department take/consider to improve learning/engagement/interest?
- E. Are follow-up studies planned?
- F. What can Student Affairs and/or the University of Florida do to help?
- G. What actions, if any, did you take based on last year's assessment findings?