

The Higher Learning Commission Action Project Directory

University of St. Francis: Establish and develop assessment plan for university-wide undergraduate education goals.

Project Details		
Title	Establish and develop assessment plan for university-wide undergraduate education goals.	Status COMPLETED
Category	1-Helping Students Learn	Updated 09-06-2007
Timeline		Reviewed 09-28-2007
Planned Project Kickoff	02-16-2004	Created 11-24-2009
Actual Completion		Last Modified 01-12-2010

1: Describe this Action Project's goal in 100 words or fewer:

A: This project will establish university-wide undergraduate education learning goals that will more clearly define a liberal arts education at USF, are assessable, affirm the role of extra-curricular and interdisciplinary studies in liberal education and provide a focal point for general education and major program curricular development.

2: Describe briefly your institution's reasons for taking on this Action Project now -- why the project and its goals are high among your current priorities:

A: The USF strategic plan goal of academic excellence cannot be addressed until we have defined what the goals are and state the goals in a manner that they can be assessed. Thus, there are two reasons for giving this project a priority status: 1) The first is that we currently do not have a systematic, university-wide method for assessment of our liberal education goals. Establishing the goals is the first step in that effort. The next step will be to develop a university-wide plan to assess the accomplishment of those goals. 2) We need to move liberal education from distributive department-based model to a university-wide outcomes-based model that encourages collaboration across disciplines.

3: List the organizational areas -- institutional departments, programs, divisions, or units -- most affected by or involved in this Action Project:

A: Faculty and students in undergraduate programs.

4: Name and describe briefly the key organizational process(es) that you expect this Action Project to change or improve:

A: 1) Liberal education curricular development/revision 2) Processes for offering interdisciplinary courses (staffing/course loads) 3) Assessment

5: Explain the rationale for the length of time planned for this Action Project (from kickoff to target completion):

A: Involve all academic stake-holders: students, faculty and administrators in each step of process. Give regular

(semiannual) reports to Academic Assembly. Publicize progress in local media.

6: Describe how you plan to monitor how successfully your efforts on this Action Project are progressing:

A: 1) More effective assessment of liberal/general education 2) Increased faculty ownership of assessment 3) Emergence of cross-curricular initiatives for liberal education such as a Writing-Across-the-Curriculum program.

7: Describe the overall "outcome" measures or indicators that will tell you whether this Action Project has been a success or failure in achieving its goals:

A: Publication of goals in College Catalog; development and implementation of assessment plan.

8: Other information (e.g., publicity, sponsor or champion, etc):

A: Goals developed and published in University Catalog
Assessment Council develops assessment plan for goals
Assessment plan implemented – first year of data collection.