HOWARD UNIVERSITY

Annual Assessment Academy Assessment Results

Assessment Cycle 2019-2020

As part of the Howard Annual Assessment Process, the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (IRA) works to ensure the quality of academic and administrative assessment. After assessment plans and results are submitted in the Taskstream system, IRA coordinates an annual assessment of these reports, looking for completion and quality.

During the summer 2020 Annual Assessment Academy, IRA recruited 18 faculty volunteers to assess mission, learning outcomes, plans, and findings based on a rubric. Raters read through assigned reports and assessed each part with a rating of Developing (1), Target (2), or Exemplary (3).

Results

During the 19-20 cycle, 149 reports were completed. These reports represented all academic degree programs including certificates and "stand-alone" minors. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some results were limited or absent as curriculum was adjusted as necessary to serve a remotely taught semester.

	Developing	Target	Exemplary	Grand Total
Mission	8%	48%	44%	100%
Learning Outcomes	25%	57%	18%	100%
Plan	15%	57%	28%	100%
Findings	32%	50%	17%	100%

Discussion

IRA was pleased to see that more than 80% (internal target) of reports had a target or exemplary mission (92%) and plan (85%). However, learning outcomes (75%) and findings (68%) did not meet our internal target. Additional training and support should be planned for helping units revise learning outcomes. For many units without discipline-specific accreditation, learning outcomes are difficult to identify. Work on this dimension will help programs communicate student learning outcomes to administration, faculty, and students. Additionally, more work on clearly explaining what constitutes target or exemplary findings will be helpful to unit leads as they enter the 20-21 findings.

Reflections

Considering this is the second cycle of the Howard Annual Assessment Process and the first year faculty have assessed the process for quality, IRA is pleased with the results and the opportunity to improve the process.

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