

Two Key Assessment & Improvement Initiatives at KSU

Comprehensive Program Review

KSU's current system of Comprehensive Program Review (CPR) was developed and approved in 2000-2001 and is coordinated by the Director of the Center for Institutional Effectiveness. Under comprehensive program review, a degree program or a support service is the focus of periodic in-depth evaluation. This evaluation of the program attends to a series of common indicators of the program's quality and productivity. It concludes with observations about the program's viability, future investment potential, and plans for improvement. All degree programs and support services at KSU undergo a comprehensive program review every five years which entails completion of a detailed self-study at the program level, a subsequent independent evaluation of the program and self-study by "external evaluators" on the University's Program Review Council, a one-year follow-up report on "closing the loop" of program improvements, and a summary report to and evaluation by the System Office of the University System of Georgia (for degree programs). That entire two-year process of comprehensive program review was begun in Fall 2001 and completed in Fall 2003 for all of KSU's undergraduate degree programs. It was initiated for all graduate degree programs and research and public service centers in Fall 2002. The documentation for all aspects of comprehensive program review is stored and accessible in an electronic archive at www.kennesaw.edu/ie/prog_rev/index.htm.

Assurance of Learning

KSU's Assurance of Learning (AOL) initiative was launched in the Spring Semester of 2003 and is coordinated by the Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs in collaboration with the Director of the Center for Institutional Effectiveness and the Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning. This initiative replaced an eight-year-old system of annual assessment reporting by departments and refocused those efforts on strengthening program-level assessments of student learning outcomes. Under this Assurance of Learning initiative, general and specific student learning outcomes concerning the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that a student has acquired by the completion of his or her program of study at KSU are identified and assessed. A university-wide Assurance of Learning Council was established in 2003 to provide institutional guidelines, workshops, formative feedback and assistance in the completion of an 8-step report that addresses: 1) articulating student learning outcomes; 2) connecting outcomes to the curriculum; 3) connecting outcomes to assessment methods; 4) articulating hypothesized and expected results; 5) articulating the research/assessment plan for gathering data; 6) collecting and analyzing assessment data; 7) comparing actual with expected results; and 8) using results for quality enhancement. Documentation concerning this initiative is also stored and accessible in an electronic archive at www.kennesaw.edu/ie/assess/index.htm.