
Action Project

Institution: Ohio University
Submitted: 2009-03-03

Timeline:

Planned project kickoff date: 2009-01-01
Target completion date: 2011-06-30
Actual completion date:

A. Give this Action Project a short title in 10 words or fewer:

Implementation of a General Education Assessment Program

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

The goal of this project will be to develop and implement a program to assess the ability of the current Ohio University General Education Program to achieve the desired common learning outcomes identified for all Ohio University graduates. The results of this assessment program will inform future decisions regarding how the current General Education program at the university should be altered to achieve the desired common learning objectives.

C. Identify the single AQIP Category which the Action Project will most affect or impact:

Primary Category: Measuring Effectiveness

D. 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:

Ohio University recently completed an action project in which common learning objectives for Ohio University students were identified. Completed last year, the goal of this action program was to develop a common educational thread which identified what it meant to be an Ohio University graduate. The institution believes it is critical that Ohio University students have a clear expectation of their common academic goals which provide a common connection to the institution, faculty and their fellow classmates; thus increasing student engagement. Assessment of the current general education program to determine if this curriculum is meeting the needs of our students in achieving the common learning outcomes is the next step in achieving the overall objectives in this area. In addition, the identification of common learning objectives and the development of a general education assessment program are goals of our institutional strategic plan and the academic plan (<http://www.ohio.edu/vision/>). The development of a quality general education assessment plan will provide the needed "roadmap" for updating and improving the general education curriculum at the institution.

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

* Office of Institutional Research- This office will be responsible for managing the assessment program and analyzing the data collected from the program.

* Faculty Senate- Through its Educational Policy and Student Affairs subcommittee, this organization will be utilizing the data from the assessment program to inform decisions regarding any possible changes to the current general education curriculum.

* Academic Units- The academic department/schools and individual colleges which deliver the general education curriculum will be expected to utilize the assessment data for creating new and monitoring changes to courses which satisfy the general education requirements.

* Faculty - Faculty who teach general education courses will be expected to use the assessment data to inform decisions on updating/improvement of the general education curriculum.

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

* General Education Program- Assessment of the current general education curriculum for the expected common learning outcomes will provide needed direction for reforms in the general education program.

* University Curriculum Council (UCC)- The council will be responsible for monitoring the general education curriculum through the course approval process and academic program reviews to insure desired common learning outcomes are being achieved. This monitoring will require minor changes in UCC operations.

* Institutional Research- This office will be charged with managing the assessment program and analyzing data which will be used to inform decisions about changes/updates to the general education curriculum.

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

A committee consisting of representatives from the Faculty Senate, UCC, the Office of Institutional Research and the Office of the Provost has been formed and is currently working to implement a pilot program for the assessment of the current general education program. Recommendations from the General Education Outcomes Committee, released in June of 2007,

<http://www.ohiou.edu/institres/assessments/genedlrnobj2007.pdf> are being used in the creation of this pilot program. It is expected to take a calendar year to complete the pilot program and an additional one to two years to secure the necessary funding from the university budget and formally implement the general education assessment program.

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

Successful completion of the pilot project, securing funding and successful implementation of the general education assessment program will be the initial indicators of the success of this action project. The effective use of the data collected from the learning outcomes assessment program to inform future decisions related to the current general education curriculum will signal the successful completion of this action project.

I. 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:

* Successful completion of the General Education assessment pilot project.

* Securing permanent funding from the university budget for an ongoing general education assessment program.

* Successful implementation of the general education assessment program.

* Obtaining significant "buy in" from Faculty Senate, the UCC and the faculty as a whole to use the assessment data to inform future decisions related to the General Education Curriculum.

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

Last Action Project Update:

A. Describe the past year's accomplishments and the current status of this Action Project.

B. Describe how the institution involved people in work on this Action Project.

C. Describe your planned next steps for this Action Project.

D. Describe any "effective practice(s)" that resulted from your work on this Action Project.

E. What challenges, if any, are you still facing in regards to this Action Project?

F. If you would like to discuss the possibility of AQIP providing you help to stimulate progress on this action project, explain your need(s) here and tell us who to contact and when?
