

Using results to strengthen the assessment process

Communication Studies

- “The results indicate that students understand the basic principles and theory of the communication process, and that Professors in their classes are constructing assignments which ask students to demonstrate this knowledge... The department will also sponsor three seminars on teaching aimed at helping our lecturers and tenured Professors construct better syllabi, assignments, and tests to measure our students’ knowledge of the communication process.”
- “One strategy that we have undertaken is the construction of a Board of Advocates for the department. This board of advocates...will help the department evaluate its course offering and suggest new course offerings that will help match the departmental curricula with ever changing professional contexts.”
- “From past experience we find that our students generally perform well in internship opportunities. One improvement we made was to make it simpler for our students to provide us with semester updates and evaluations of their respective internship experiences. We created online forms whereby students can relate to use their experiences quickly and categorically. These responses are also automatically archived on these private websites. These archived responses allow us to have a quick overview of the internship experiences and, in turn, help us to advise future students as to where they might want to intern.”

Mechanical Engineering

“The committee noted that while Assessment Methods 1 and 2 have subtle differences, it seems possible to combine them to a single method. The Graduate Director noted that the mechanism for obtaining the publication data for graduate students is not well established. He noted that plans are in place for improving this process...The committee also recommends using a second assessment method that involves modifying the current thesis evaluation instrument so that we obtain a more meaningful assessment of the research quality. Dr. Thompson will bring these recommendations to the ME Graduate faculty and the plan is to have the new assessment method in place for Fall 07 graduates...The committee also recommended making the assessment methods for this outcome match closely with the other engineering degree programs (MSECE and MSBME) which have a similar version of this outcome.”