

7. Inventory of Educational Effectiveness Indicators

Why is WASC Interested in Data of This Kind? The indicators asked for in this table provide evidence of how an institution approaches its quality assurance activities that ensure and improve student learning. This table is required for the Proposal and is to be updated at the Preparatory and Educational Effectiveness Reviews to indicate the extent to which the institution is already engaging in the kinds of activities that will be reviewed by the team and Commission as evidence of its systems of educational effectiveness. When the table is complete for all degree programs, the evaluation team may sample from the institution's list of activities to understand how systematically and comprehensively the institution addresses the quality of its learning infrastructure. For example, institutions are expected to have educational objectives for degree programs and the institution as a whole (CFR 1.1, 1.2, and 2.4). In order to ensure that educational objectives are met, learning outcomes are to be reflected in academic programs and policies (CFR 2.3) and published and widely shared in the institution, with students, and among other stakeholders (CFR 2.4). The faculty is expected to take collective responsibility for reviewing and demonstrating the attainment of those expectations (CFR 2.4). The ongoing and regular collection and use of data help assure the delivery of programs and learner accomplishments at a level of performance appropriate for the degree or certificate awarded (CFR 2.6). Program review then examines and improves curricular currency and effectiveness of degree offerings (CFR 2.7) to ensure and improve student learning (CFR 4.4). In sum, for an institution to be committed to educational effectiveness, it must have in place a system that regularly uses evidence in a variety of ways to improve student learning. The indicators listed in this table collectively demonstrate an institution's commitment to quality assurance systems that improve educational results over time (CFRs 4.1 and 4.5).

Issues and Challenges. Not all institutions have yet established the expectation for learning outcomes and learning assessment measures for all degree programs. This table may be used as an audit for the institution to determine where such systems are in place, and where programs may need assistance in developing those measures before the WASC review is initiated. It is critical for an institution to be explicit about its expectations for these measures and to provide monitoring to assure that every degree program has in place a quality assurance system for assessing, tracking and improving the learning of its graduates. Some measures and indicators are embedded in the curriculum and may be difficult to list distinctly and individually in a table format. As a result, institutions may wish to meet the intent of this data table with a supplementary narrative.

Data Element 7.1 – Educational Effectiveness Indicators

Description. This data table requests brief narrative information on specific quality assurance activities undertaken by the institution at the time of completion of the table. The following information is requested for each degree program, for general education, and for the institution as a whole: 1) whether formal learning outcomes have been developed (may be answered yes/no); 2) where the learning outcomes for the degree are listed (include course syllabi, catalogs, and other publications as applicable); 3) the measures or indicators used to assess student learning (examples include capstone courses; comprehensive assessment examinations; student, alumni, and employer surveys; portfolio review; licensure examination; etc.); and 4) the date of the last program review for the program (presumably this program review will have produced a report that the team may review).

A sample format designed to address this requirement follows.

Sample Format 7.1 Inventory of Educational Effectiveness Indicators

CATEGORY	Have formal learning outcomes been developed?	Where are these learning outcomes published? (Please specify)	Other than GPA, what measures/indicators are used to determine that graduates have achieved the stated outcomes for the degree? (e.g., capstone course, portfolio review, licensure examination)	Date of last program review for this degree program
At the institutional level:				
For general education if an undergraduate institution:				
List each degree program:				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				

(Add additional pages if needed.)