

SACS Report

Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation
Duke University
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III Assessment of Learning Objectives

As a non-degree offering department, we assess our ability to meet our Learning Objectives through the following three data collection methods; participation rates, course evaluations and survey. These methods have proven to be effective in allowing us to adapt to the changing needs of the students.

I Participation Rates

1. Classes

On average we offer over 78 classes each semester and utilize the Course Tally reports generated by the Office of the Registrar to review the number of participants and breakdown of students by class each semester. The following chart is for the 2007-2008 Academic Year.

2007-08 HPER Course Tallies		
Fall 2007		
Total		1,048
Undergraduates	997	
Seniors	431	
Juniors	193	
Sophomores	223	
Freshmen	150	
Graduate Students	51	
Spring 2008		
Total		1,459
Undergraduates	1,395	
Seniors	774	
Juniors	223	
Sophomores	188	
Freshmen	210	
Graduate Students	64	
2007-08 Averages		
Total		1,253.5
Undergraduates	1,196	
Seniors	602	
Juniors	208	
Sophomores	205.5	
Freshmen	180	
Graduate Students	57.5	

This information allows us to see if we need to make changes to our semester offerings based on having enough sections of classes as well as eliminating any courses that are not filling on a regular basis.

2. Recreation

We view participation rates in two general recreation areas: Club Sports and Intramurals. These numbers are tabulated by our Director of Recreation and our utilized to make adjustments in the number of intramural and club sport offerings. Additionally the information is used for future facility needs, equipment and budget needs.

For the 2007-08 academic year one thousand (1,000) students were members of Club Sport teams and over six thousand (6,000) participants were involved in Intramurals.

II Course Evaluations

Our department utilizes the Trinity College Office of Assessment Teacher Course Evaluation Instrument as a means to collect and review student feedback and faculty feedback for our lecture course offerings. This information is used to compare our effectiveness as teachers to other departments within Trinity and as a mean of evaluating our undergraduate courses.

For example, in the area of overall appraisal, reports for the 2008 Spring semester indicate that students rate the quality of our courses at a mean of 4.43 compared to 4.22 for courses in the Social Sciences. Also, students rate the quality of instruction at a mean of 4.49 compared to 4.32 for courses in the Social Sciences.

For our activity courses, we utilize a Department created course evaluation form to evaluate the course in meeting the learning objectives set forth by the instructor and the overall effectiveness of the instructor. Additional information is collected from the students with regard to areas of interest they have. This helps us plan for the development of new courses that meet their needs.

During the Women's Initiative review at the University, we used information gathered from these activity course evaluation forms to take it upon ourselves as a department to meet the challenge of providing female based activity courses. This led to the development of such courses as Physical Fitness for Women and Weight Training for Women.

III Surveys

In the past our use of surveys as a tool to gather information have focused on the quality of our courses and for feedback on facility use and needs. Over the course of the next three years, we plan to implement a more comprehensive survey system as a analysis tool for

the evaluation of our department and our ability to meet the learning objectives we have in place.

There are five outcomes associated with this three year plan:

Year One

- More Detailed Demographic Analysis

We plan to gather more demographic information on the students who take the courses we offer and who participate in the Club Sports and Intramural programs. This will give us a better snapshot of who are the students we come in contact with on a daily basis. This information will be helpful in planning and evaluation for the future.

- Redesign the Activity Course Evaluation Form

The goal of this is to incorporate questions directly related to our learning objectives. This will help us in evaluating the learning outcomes of the students and in making any necessary course curriculum changes.

Year Two

- Pre and Post Course Test

With the aide of the Office of Assessment we will incorporate Pre and Post Test tools, like the Defining Issues Test, on a yearly rotating basis for our lecture courses. During the 2008-09 academic year we will run pilot studies on a couple of courses each semester to prepare for implementation of this program during the 2009-10 academic year. The information provided from such studies will help us analyze our ability to meet our learning objectives.

- Club Sports and Intramural Programs Survey

The creation of a survey tool designed for our Club Sports and Intramural programs will be utilized to evaluate meeting the learning objectives of these two programs.

Year Three

- Alumni Survey

By the 2010-11 academic year we plan to have an Alumni Survey for participants of our Club Sports and Intramural Programs in place for use on a three to five year cycle. This is will provide valuable data on these programs meeting the learning objectives, particularly of promoting a lasting healthy lasting life-style.