



Office of Institutional Effectiveness and
Assessment

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Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment

Workshop Title: Curriculum mapping

*A powerful tool for discussion about courses, teaching, and learning
outcomes*

Suggested Citation:





Curriculum mapping

A powerful tool for discussion about courses, teaching, and learning outcomes



Introductions

Name

Degree Program

What is one thing you hope to learn today?

GOALS

Provide an overview of the curriculum mapping process

Identify a curriculum mapping process that would work for your program

Feel empowered to make your own map with these strategies and templates

ASSESSMENT

WHY DO WE DO
IT?

MONARCH MAGAZINE

ONLINE AND ON THE GO

Stef Kight '16 travels from the halls of Congress to the Mexican border to cover immigration for Axios.

READ MORE ▶



APPLY NOW



TAKE A TOUR



FIND PROGRAM



STUDY ONLINE



GIVE TO ODU

ASSESSMENT

WHAT IS IT?

Assessment is the ongoing process of:

1. **Establishing clear, measurable expected outcomes of student learning.**

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2. Ensuring that students have sufficient opportunities to achieve those outcomes.

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4. Using the resulting information to understand and improve student learning.

Collecting meaningful and actionable data that leads to program and student learning improvements.

Assessment for you

The capstone instructor last year reported her data (rubric scores) and impression of low graphing skills in seniors to the department.

After some faculty conversations, we arranged with the Mathematics department for greater emphasis on graphing in the required math course and for assessment of graphing skills during that course, working closely with the capstone instructor(s). We also arranged for graphing to be a required component in the program's 300 level required course.

The capstone instructor(s) will report next year whether graphing skills are stronger. Prof. Brody is currently developing a rubric to assess graphing skills more accurately within the program.

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2 Minute Free Write

Why do you want to do curriculum mapping in your program?

At the end of the process, what do you want to accomplish?

Curriculum Mapping

A method of aligning instruction with student learning outcomes



Makes visible
how courses in a
curriculum align
to the learning
outcomes

————— OUTCOMES —————

	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3

COURSES

OUTCOMES

	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3
Course 1			
Course 2			
Course 3			

OUTCOMES

COURSES

	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3
Course 1	X	X	
Course 2		X	
Course 3	X		X

SCALE

Guiding Questions for Making the Map

- What does our disciplinary association (or major authorities in our discipline) think students should learn?
- What do we want all students to get out of this program, regardless of the particular course, track, or professor they elect?
- After taking a particular course, what are students expected to demonstrate?
- Why do we offer or require this course, learning experience, or general education requirement? Why is it important that students study this? How do we want this experience to prepare them for or enrich whatever they do after graduation?



Benefits

- Improves communication about curriculum and promotes program coherence
- Helps individual faculty connect the dots between their course and the goals of the program
- Informs decisions about course offerings, sequencing, and scheduling
- Reveals strengths and weaknesses in the curriculum
- Informs assessment of learning outcomes



Scales

<i>Students who successfully complete this major will be able to:</i>	Introductory Biology course (lecture and lab)	Lower division lecture courses	Lower division lab courses	Upper division Biochemistry/ Molecular Biology courses	Upper division Genetics and Cell Biology	Upper divisional emphasis-specific cores	Upper division lab courses	Upper division elective courses	Independent research
Describe basic biological concepts and principles	X			X	X	X			
Appreciate the different levels of biological organization, from molecules to ecosystems	X			X	X	X	X	X	
Understand that Biology has a chemical, physical, and mathematical basis	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Explain the importance of the scientific method to understanding natural phenomena	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
Effectively communicate scientific data and ideas, both orally and in writing				X	X	X	X	X	X
Critically evaluate data, develop a hypothesis, and design experiments to address an interesting and novel problem						X	X	X	X
Demonstrate advanced knowledge in a specialized field of molecular and cell biology						X	X	X	X

X Marks the Spot

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Explain the importance of the scientific method to understanding natural phenomena	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
Effectively communicate scientific data and ideas, both orally and in writing				X	X	X	X	X	X
Critically evaluate data, develop a hypothesis, and design experiments to address an interesting and novel problem						X	X	X	X
Demonstrate advanced knowledge in a specialized field of molecular and cell biology						X	X	X	X

X Marks the Spot

Simply “X” the required learning activities/courses in which students are graded on their progress toward achieving the learning outcome

	Introductory Course	Research Methods	Advanced Content Course A	Laboratory / Practicum Course	Advanced Content Course B	Advanced Content Course C	Advanced Content Course D	Capstone Course
Content								
SLO 1: Disciplinary knowledge base (models and theories)	Introduced		Reinforced		Reinforced	Reinforced	Reinforced	Mastery / Assessed
SLO 2: Disciplinary methods		Introduced		Reinforced		Reinforced		Mastery / Assessed
SLO 3: Disciplinary applications	Introduced		Reinforced		Reinforced		Reinforced	Mastery / Assessed
Critical Thinking								
SLO 4: Analysis and use of evidence		Introduced		Reinforced	Reinforced		Reinforced	Mastery / Assessed
SLO 5: Evaluation, selection, and use of sources of information	Introduced	Reinforced		Reinforced		Reinforced		Mastery / Assessed
Communication								
SLO 6: Written communication skills	Introduced	Reinforced		Reinforced		Reinforced		Mastery / Assessed
SLO 7: Oral communication skills		Introduced	Reinforced		Reinforced	Mastery / Assessed		
Integrity / Values								
SLO 8: Disciplinary ethical standards		Introduced		Reinforced	Reinforced			Mastery / Assessed
SLO 9: Academic integrity	Introduced	Reinforced	Reinforced	Reinforced		Reinforced		Mastery / Assessed

Generic BFA in Art (sampling of courses)	A. Insert course names & #'s in columns and program outcomes in rows	Perspectives in Western Art	Perspectives in Ancient & World Art	Critical Theories in Art	Foundation Studio I	Advanced Studio I	Future Media and Advanced Techniques	Senior Studio, Exhibition, and Portfolio	
Program Outcomes	A. Insert course units	9	9	12	9	9	9	24	D. Indirect Measures
Appropriately conduct and incorporate research findings into their work	B. Insert "I," "A," or "M,"	I	I	I	I	A	A	M	Employer and alumni surveys
	C. Insert potential assessments	Written critiques	Written critiques	Mid-term and final papers	Artistic work product, oral presentation	Artistic work product, oral presentation	Artistic work product, oral presentation	Exhibition & portfolio presentation	
Evaluate art movements from various cultures and time periods	B. Insert "I," "A," or "M,"	I	I	I	I	A	A	M	Employer and alumni surveys
	C. Insert potential assessments	Written critiques	Written critiques	Mid-term and final papers	Artistic work product, oral presentation, written critiques of peer work	Artistic work product, oral presentation, written critiques of peer work	Artistic work product, oral presentation, written critiques of peer work	Exhibition & portfolio presentation, written critiques of peer work	
Articulate a philosophical and aesthetic approach to their art and its place in the larger cultural and historical context	B. Insert "I," "A," or "M,"				I	A	A	M	Employer and alumni surveys
	C. Insert potential assessments				Oral presentation of artistic work product	Oral presentation of artistic work product	Oral presentation of artistic work product	Exhibition & portfolio presentation	

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Appropriately conduct and incorporate research findings into their work	B. Insert "I," "A," or "M,"	1	1	1	1	A	A	M	Employer and alumni surveys
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Graduate Program Curriculum Map

<p>I= introduced program outcomes and objectives for the course in reaching outcomes</p> <p>R= course reinforces program outcomes and concepts</p> <p>M= courses promote level of mastery</p>	Outcome	NEUR 5280 Intro Neuroscience	NEUR 5715 –Seminar (each semester)*	Neuroscience Speaker Series (weekly)**	NEUR 5100 Neuroanatomy	NEUR 5685 Neurophysiology	Neuroscience electives (3 rd and 4 th year)	NEUR 5980 Dissertation research	Qualifying Exams	Dissertation Defense
<p>GOAL 1: Knowledge</p> <p>By graduation, students should have an advanced level of understanding of neuroscience, neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, as well as their major area of research. This knowledge is required to pass the qualifying exam for admission to PhD candidacy.</p>	1.1 Demonstrate understanding of fundamental concepts	I	I,R,M	R	I	R	R, M	M	M	M
	1.2 Demonstrate understanding of advanced topics		I,R,M	R,M	I	R	R, M	M	M	M
<p>GOAL 2: Communication</p> <p>Students should be able to communicate effectively their results and that of others.</p>	2.1 Demonstrate communication skills using visual aids	I	I,R,M	R, M	I	R	R, M	M	M	M
	2.2 Demonstrate the ability to verbally communicate concepts and research	I	I,R,M	R,M	I	R	R,M	M	M	M
<p>Goal 3. Scientific Proficiency</p> <p>Students should demonstrate the knowledge, research expertise, and methodology to become proficient Neuroscience researchers.</p>		I	I,R,M	R,M	I	R	R,M	M	M	M



Five questions can help to promote an intentional mapping effort:

1. Purpose: What are we mapping and why?
2. Scope: What parts of the learning environment are included or left out by this approach?
3. Participation: Who should be involved in the conversations?
4. Form: How many layers do our maps need to make decisions and to address educational complexity?
5. Limitations: What ways of seeing are we excluding in our maps?

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Approach 1

A program or department chair, in isolation, completes the map based on a review of syllabi. The combined map is discussed at the program level.



Approach 2

An excel spreadsheet is electronically sent around to faculty and individual faculty members complete the sheet based on the courses they teach. The combined map is discussed at the program level.



Approach 3

Faculty come together to identify where the learning outcomes are addressed within the courses.

Think, Pair, Share

Which curriculum map and approach do you like? What will work best for your program?

Making the
Map



Discussing
the Map

Map Discussion Questions

- In the key courses, are all outcomes addressed, in a logical order?
- Do all the key courses address at least one outcome?
- Do some outcomes get more coverage than others?
- Do students get practice on all the outcomes before being assessed, e.g., in the capstone?
- Do all students, regardless of which electives they choose, experience a coherent progression and coverage of all outcomes?

Activity

Based on the following map, what are two questions that you would ask the program?

If you were to start curriculum mapping, what would be your next step?



Thank you