



## OFFICE OF THE VICE PROVOST FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

### ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT POLICY

**RESPONSIBLE ADMINISTRATOR:** VICE PROVOST FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS  
**RESPONSIBLE OFFICE(S):** OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST, OFFICE OF THE VICE PROVOST FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS  
**ORIGINALLY ISSUED:** FEBRUARY 2006  
**APPROVALS:** APPROVED BY:

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*Carl L. Reiber, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs*

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*Date*

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*John Valery White, Executive Vice President & Provost*

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*Date*

APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT:

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*Neal J. Smatresk*

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*Date*

**REVISION DATE:** FEBRUARY 2013

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#### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

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Academic assessment of student learning is a process through which faculty can discern what and how well their students learn. It also is an effective tool through which meaningful conversations can take place about program objectives, curricular content and organization, and the alignment of course and program objectives with institutional objectives. Academic assessment gauges what and how well students are learning and is required for institutional accreditation by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). The NWCCU standards mandate that UNLV develop program objectives and ensure that student learning outcomes results meet program objectives in order for the university to retain its institutional accreditation. To meet the standards, UNLV systematically documents and implements assessment plans, and continually evaluates courses and programs for improvement. This document is the university's official policy regarding academic assessment requirements, planning, and documentation.

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#### ENTITIES AFFECTED BY THIS POLICY

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Deans, associate/assistant deans, chairs/directors, faculty and all other instructors who teach at UNLV are affected by this policy.

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#### WHO SHOULD READ THIS POLICY

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Deans, associate/assistant deans, chairs/directors, faculty, and all other instructors who teach at UNLV should read this policy.

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#### POLICY

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UNLV requires that all academic programs be assessed systematically and that courses and programs be updated based on data obtained through formal assessment. Courses, programs, degrees, majors, minors, concentrations, strands, graduate programs, interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary programs, and other groups of courses must be assessed. Specific programs to be assessed include, but are not limited to, General Education, Honors, Online Education, Academic Certificate Programs, and academic Civic Engagement, including Service Learning.

Assessment *plans* are required for all programs, degrees, majors, minors, concentrations, strands, graduate programs, interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary programs and other groups of courses.

Documentation of systematic assessment and course and program improvement is to be maintained by appropriate campus units. Refer to the Office of Academic Assessment at <http://provost.unlv.edu/Assessment/> for complete information on documentation requirements.

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#### RELATED DOCUMENTS

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Accreditation Standards by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities:  
<http://www.nwccu.org>.

Academic Assessment Strategic Plan: <http://provost.unlv.edu/Assessment/>

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#### CONTACTS

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Flora Dungan Humanities Building - FDH 734  
(702) 895-1506, Fax (702) 895-3670

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#### DEFINITIONS

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**Assessment** - The collection and use of evidence to improve a product or process.

**Assessment Plan** - A format that outlines planned assessment activities over a five-year period.

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**Program** - An academic major, minor, or program of study leading to a degree or certificate. An intentional co-curricular opportunity for students provided outside the formal program that enhances the student experience and complements the academic requirement.