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One-Year Review: Enhancing Institutional Accreditation Efforts



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One -Year Review: Enhance Institutional Accreditation Efforts



Introductions & Quick Facts

Nashville, TN, Doctoral Universities: Very High Research Activity,
13,710 students, 1,900 faculty & 4,400 staff

Most recent SACSCOC reaffirmation: 2016. Fifth year interim report
due March 2023

Office of Academic Program Review, Accreditation, and Assessment.
Est. Nov. '21. All staff present in this room.

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Office Mission

The mission of OAPRAA is to support Vanderbilt University in the twin efforts of maintaining federal compliance and engaging in continuous innovation in service to its mission to be “a center for scholarly research, informed and creative thinking, and service to the community at large.”

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Goals

Create and maintain a sustainable university climate for inclusive excellence in all activities related to meeting compliance requirements and achieving continuous improvement at the institutional level, by

- Leveraging collaborative partnerships with all university academic & student support units,
- Adding capacity by providing professional training and consultation for policies and processes to faculty and staff, and
- Driving results by integrating accreditation efforts with Vanderbilt's mission and goals.

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One -Year Review: Enhance Institutional Accreditation Efforts



Expected Outcomes for OAPRAA, year 1:

- Outcome #1: Establish an improved academic program change review process, and design and implement a brand new webform.
- Outcome #2: Strengthen engagement with assessment on campus by improving the quality of academic program assessment for both internal and external review.
- Outcome #3: Enhance the professional management of institutional accreditation by creating a central hub for knowledge, resource and support for all accreditation related activities.

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Outcome #1a: Establish an improved academic program change review process

Task: in one year, replace old process with a new one that:

- ensures appropriate institutional oversight of program changes
- proper and consistent documentation of proposals
- Supports timely reporting to institutional accreditor
- And is universally well loved by faculty and administration...

Target for Success

--- By the end of the OAPRAA's first year, new process will be adopted across institution and reflected in all school curriculum committee by-laws. (met)

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Outcome #1b: Design and implement a brand new webform.

Kuali – leveraging Vanderbilt’s new curriculum management system, an interactive webform backed by a fully-customizable workflow now serves as:

- a centralized place for the creation and submission of proposals
- home to the entire review of both proposal concepts and full proposals
- the repository for all details, including content, reviews, and actions, for historical record-keeping.

The workflow manages reviews and feedback from academic deans, central curriculum and administrative committees, faculty senate, the Provost, the Chancellor, and the Board of Trust

Target for Success

--- By the end of the OAPRAA’s first year, all academic program change related activities will be managed online. (met)

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Outcome #1c: Design and implement a brand new webform

Data Source:

- [PCCAP Web Form](#)
- [PCCAP Resource Guide](#)
- [Sample of Submitted Proposal Concept and Full Proposal](#)

Measures:

- [PCCAP Web Form Pre-Release Review Rubric](#)
- [PCCAP Committee Review Rubric](#)
- [PCCAP Web Form User Feedback](#)
- [Evaluation of System Effectiveness: PNOI & PCCAP](#)

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Outcome #2a: Strengthen the process of academic program assessment for both internal and external review.

- Leveraging Vanderbilt's assessment and accreditation system (Anthology Planning), the VU Educational Programs Annual Reports template:
 - provides access to all "reporting agents" across campus, as identified by the accreditation-liaison academic deans
 - streamlines the reports into a single template with a built-in review and approval process, which features program directors, academic deans, and staff in OAPRAA
 - serves as a central repository to maintain annual documentation for record-keeping and access (future program directors can lean on prior years' activities to inform future practices)

Target for Success: By the end of the OAPRAA's first year, all academic units will: *live* in Planning, be supported in completing annual assessment reports, and guided in the practice of assuring the quality of academic program assessment reports. (met)

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Outcome #2b: Strengthen engagement with assessment on campus by improving the quality of academic program assessment content for both internal and external review.

Data Source:

- [Master Program Assessment Reports for AY 20-21](#)
- [Academic Program Assessment Reports Review Rubric](#)
- [Proposed Program Learning Outcomes Assessment Report Template](#)
- [Program Assessment Cycle Tutorial: Start the Loop / Close the Loop](#)
- [Supportive Documents for External Accademic Program Review](#)

Measure:

- [OAPRAA self-assessment reflections](#)
- [Survey to Program Directors' Assessment Needs](#)

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Outcome #2c: Move toward a culture of assessment on campus by improving the quality of academic program assessment for both internal and external review.

Early stages of long process

- enhanced support for assessment by creating the office and through added capacity to staff in Nov. 2021
- Early engagement with provost's office in new External Review Process

Ongoing change in culture through:

- new hub for assessment resources
- Plans for workshops
- Additional (friendly and pragmatic) approach to engaging with the "A word"

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Outcome #3: Enhance the professional management of institutional accreditation by creating a central hub for knowledge, resource and support for all accreditation related activities.

Previous approach to assessment was episodic and intense, utilizing the time and resources of offices already busy with the tasks involved in fulfilling the institutional mission.


Resulted in burn-out, frustration, and quick fixes that were not institutionalized.

Creating and staffing an office focused on compliance and its component requirements has enhanced capacity across institution to meet its mission as well as its reporting obligations.

Target for Success

--- By the end of the OAPRAA's first year, OAPRAA can begin process of institutionalizing processes that make compliance reporting more efficient and broadly understood.

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<p>Successes</p>	<p>Concerns</p> 
<p>Outcome 1: The PCCAP Proposal Concept has been formally published and has facilitated Vanderbilt's first submission</p>	<p>Feedback from the inaugural submitter (a faculty member) suggests that the language of some items may not be interpreted as intended</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Established a reliable communication mechanism within campus community; Increased the completion rate of annual program assessment reports; Put in place training materials and reviewing guidelines for program assessment.</p>	<p>Different schools may adopt different program assessment plans and some of them may not use curriculum mapping; Understand and take full advantage of closing the loop; Limited experience with conducting external academic program review.</p>
<p>Outcome 3: By its nature, the office has become the hub and has created a central location for documentation and resources related to federal compliance. Since this is a major focus for our staff, the process is more efficiently managed.</p>	<p>No good deed goes unpunished. Capacity for the decennial review!</p>

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Questions & Comments

Thank you!

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