Central Washington University  
Assessment of Student Learning  
Department and Program Report

Please enter the appropriate information concerning your student learning assessment activities for this year.

Academic Year of Report: 2010-2011  
College:  COTS  
Department _______________________ Program: Public Policy

1. What student learning outcomes were assessed this year, and why?
In answering this question, please identify the specific student learning outcomes you assessed this year, reasons for assessing these outcomes, with the outcomes written in clear, measurable terms, and note how the outcomes are linked to department, college and university mission and goals.

   Gather factual data and apply them to real societal problems.

   Understand/demonstrate the writing and speaking processes through invention, organization, drafting, revision, editing, presentation.

The main and final means of assessing these outcomes are the policy analysis papers that students prepare for the capstone course and present at a professional meeting and at source. Normally four or five students will present policy papers in a given year. This year there were twelve.

   Ashley Sorenson, Regulations for Small Scale Meat Processing Facilities  
   Christopher D. Goehner & Michael Merz, Veteran's Benefits as Economic Stimulus  
   Terri Pace, Liability for Toxins Released into the Environment: the TCE Case  
   Tyson Ames, Jobs and Economic Recovery  
   Samantha Louderback & Jillian Emery, Salmon Restoration & In stream Flow: Manastash Creek, Washington  
   Shaun Helkey and Maxwell Powell, National Fraternities at Washington State Comprehensive Universities  
   Michael Barrow, US/Russia Bering Sea Living Resources Policies  
   Alexander Cole, Public Support for Students in Higher Education: Loans and Forgiveness, Subsidies, Grants, and Other Tricks  
   Jacqueline Behling, Dairy Surplus: A Policy Solution?

The range of societal problems that were dealt with in these projects is indicative of the variety and scales of the problems that students in the program are equipped to handle.

2. How were they assessed?
In answering these questions, please concisely describe the specific methods used in assessing student learning. Please also specify the population assessed, when the assessment took place, and the standard of mastery (criterion) against which you will compare your assessment results. If appropriate, please list survey or questionnaire response rate from total population.

Papers ranged from acceptable to the highest quality and the power point and poster presentations were all very good to excellent. Faculty evaluate performance by reading the papers and attending presentations—SOURCE presentations are evaluated by judges.
A) What methods were used?
B) Who was assessed?
C) When was it assessed?

3. What was learned?
In answering this question, please report results in specific qualitative or quantitative terms, with the results linked to the outcomes you assessed, and compared to the standard of mastery (criterion) you noted above. Please also include a concise interpretation or analysis of the results.

We reaffirmed what we already knew: Students do exceptional work when the project is something that interests them and when they have the tools to do the job.

4. What will the department or program do as a result of that information?
In answering this question, please note specific changes to your program as they affect student learning, and as they are related to results from the assessment process. If no changes are planned, please describe why no changes are needed. In addition, how will the department report the results and changes to internal and external constituents (e.g., advisory groups, newsletters, forums, etc.).

No changes are planned.

5. What did the department or program do in response to last year’s assessment information?
In answering this question, please describe any changes that have been made to improve student learning based on previous assessment results. Please also discuss any changes you have made to your assessment plan or assessment methods.

N/A

6. Questions or suggestions concerning Assessment of Student Learning at Central Washington University: