Assessing Graduate Programs

Louisiana Council of Graduate Deans
New Orleans, LA

October 27, 2011
Overview

- Assessment in Graduate Programs
- Best Practices in Assessing Graduate Programs
- SACS Implications
Assessment in Graduate Programs

Assessment for Accountability

Assessment for Improvement

What will come next?
Best Practices in Assessing Graduate Programs

- Program Assessment
- Assessment of Student Learning
  - Learning Outcomes
- Assessment Methods
  - Curriculum Map/Alignment Matrix
  - Rubrics to evaluate work products
Graduate Program Assessment

• Academic Program Review

• Metrics used to evaluate graduate programs
  ◦ Benchmarking
  ◦ Resources
  ◦ Student/Alumni Satisfaction
  ◦ Student Learning
  ◦ Scholarly Impact
  ◦ Teaching and Mentoring
Student Learning Outcomes in Graduate Programs

- Conduct independent research
- Analyze, synthesize, derive conclusions
- Communicate orally and in writing
- In depth mastery of subject area
- Professional conduct
Assessment Methods

- Curriculum Map
- Rubrics
  - Comprehensive/Qualifying Exams
  - Thesis
  - Dissertation
- Portfolios
- Student self-assessment
SACS Implications

3.3 Institutional Effectiveness

3.4 Educational Programs: All Educational Programs

3.6 Educational Programs: Graduate and Post-Baccalaureate Professional Programs

4.1 Student Achievement

4.2 Program Curriculum
Some good advice

1. Good assessment is good research. (Pike, 2000)

2. Start with a manageable project with modest but important goals rather than a highly complex project. (Schuh, 2009)

3. Don’t have to assess everything every year. (Schuh, 2009)
Some good advice for graduate programs

1. Differentiate level of expectation.

2. Use natural points of contact to gather data related to student learning.

3. Use multiple sources of data.


For more information...

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