

School of Information Technology Illinois State University

Academic Assessment Plan

Learning Objectives by Program (June 2001) Description of Assessment Process (June 2002)

ITK School objectives for each program June 2001

The objectives of the B.S. in Information Systems program are to prepare students to:

1. Demonstrate a proficiency in designing and developing application systems by employing appropriate methodologies, principles, techniques, tools, and languages.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the impact and importance of information technology in the business environment.
3. Demonstrate a proficiency in working in a collaborative environment.
4. Demonstrate a proficiency in making oral presentations and writing technical reports.
5. Demonstrate the ability to apply principles and theories of information systems in a professional setting under supervision.

The objectives of the B. S. in Applied Computer Science program are to prepare students to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the major theories and principles of computer science.
2. Demonstrate a proficiency in designing and developing software systems that have a technical, scientific, or mathematical focus
3. Demonstrate a proficiency in working in a collaborative environment.
4. Demonstrate a proficiency in making oral presentations and writing technical reports.
5. Demonstrate the ability to apply principles and theories of computer science in a professional setting under supervision.

The objectives of the B. S. in **Telecommunications Management** program are to prepare students to:

1. Demonstrate a proficiency in designing, developing, and managing telecommunications systems by employing appropriate theories, methodologies, and principles.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the economic, legal-regulatory, and public policy aspects as well as business practices and procedures related to the telecommunications industry.
3. Demonstrate a proficiency in working in a collaborative environment.
4. Demonstrate a proficiency in making oral presentations and writing technical reports.
5. Demonstrate the ability to apply principles and theories of telecommunications in a professional setting under supervision.

The objectives of the M. S. in **Applied Computer Science** program are to prepare students to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the major areas within the information technology field.

2. Demonstrate advanced knowledge in one or more areas within the information technology field.
3. Demonstrate a proficiency in working in a collaborative environment.
4. Demonstrate a proficiency in making oral presentations and writing technical reports.
5. Demonstrate proficiency in conducting research in the information technology field or in applying information technology theories and methodologies in a project setting.

Description of the Assessment Process for ITK June 2002

The School of Information Technology has three undergraduate degree programs and one graduate program. The undergraduate programs are Information Systems, Computer Science, and Telecommunications Management. The Information Systems program has two sequences. As mandated, student learning objectives for each program were submitted to the Provost's Office on June 1, 2001. The assessment plan described here will be used to assess student outcomes and improve instruction.

Measures and data available

- Undergraduate and Graduate Alumni Follow-up Survey. These surveys are conducted annually by the Office of Institutional Research to provide students' satisfaction with the university, department, and program as well as information on placement and attainment of learning outcomes. Specific questions relevant to the ITK programs and their learning outcomes are added to the general university-wide questions.
- Graduating Senior Exit Survey, conducted by the university, provides quantitative data on "customer service" issues such as quality of instruction, advisement, and facilities.
- Employer Input/Feedback
- The school's 2 industrial advisory boards, the Business & Industry Advisory Council (BIAC) and the Telecommunications Advisory Board (TAB) meet twice each year. Curriculum issues are typically discussed at each meeting so there is ample opportunity for feedback on our programs, input on possible program improvements, and for reaction to proposed changes.
- School members meet regularly with employers at events such as Meet the Firms and Placement's Job Fairs where program feedback is obtained on an adhoc basis.
- The Intern Evaluation completed by the employers includes a question asking how well prepared the student was for the intern job.
- Examination and performance activities in specific classes. Instructional outcomes can be assessed from the projects, activities, and exams in key classes in each program. For the Information Systems program, ITK 363, 353, and 378 will be used. For the Computer Science program, ITK 327, 328, and 383 will be used. For the Telecomm program, the capstone course ITK 379 will be used.
- Special surveys conducted by the school and/or Curriculum committee. For example, in 1999 the Curriculum Committee surveyed current students as part of a review of the school's core courses.
- Other measures as determined by program faculty and the Curriculum committee

Assessment Process

The school's Curriculum committee is charged by the department bylaws with assessing the school's programs and proposing and overseeing program improvements. By school bylaws, any program improvement that changes curriculum requirements must be agreed to by a vote of the school faculty.

The following events carry out the school's assessment process:

- Each fall's faculty retreat (typically held one day during the week before classes start) includes discussion of possible program improvements.
- Curriculum committee proposes improvements. During the fall semester, the curriculum committee meets weekly; during the spring semester, meetings are every two weeks. Typically, the Curriculum committee appoints a sub-committee consisting of general school faculty and some curriculum committee members to investigate curriculum issues related to a specific program and recommend changes to the Curriculum committee (and the school). The Curriculum committee then discusses the recommendations, proposals are written, and passed to the school.
- Annual survey data is distributed to the school and discussed at curriculum committee meetings and/or faculty meetings.
- Potential changes are discussed with our industrial advisory boards, BIAC and TAB.
- Proposed improvements are discussed by school faculty at faculty meetings.
- Proposed changes in program requirements are voted on by school faculty.

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