2022 ANNUAL ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FORM
(Due October 15 to the dean)

The Faculty Senate Academic Assessment Committee (AAC) is committed to a vision of assessment that leads to continuous program improvements and benefits students. Annual assessment reporting informs decision making and resource allocation aimed at improving student learning and success. It also enables the AAC to analyze assessment across the institution and to respond to UA System, Board of Regents, legislative, and Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) requests. We thank you for your continued support of and participation in this annual activity.

Starting in Spring 2021, UAA moved to one academic assessment reporting mechanism. The below form merges and streamlines the former Annual Academic Assessment Survey and the Annual Academic Assessment Report. It also incorporates questions about how academic programs contribute to student achievement of institutional core competencies and to student success.

This annual report will be due to the dean on October 15. Programs with suspended admissions and new programs in the first year of implementation are not required to complete this form.

These reports are public documents and will be posted on the assessment website. Responses are to be narrative only, and must be ADA- and FERPA-compliant. Do not embed any links, including to webpages or other documents. To be FERPA-compliant, do not include the names of any current or former students. Rather, use statements such as, "In AY22 four program graduates were accepted to graduate programs in the field." Programs with specialized accreditation or other external recognitions must comply with restrictions regarding what can be published, as per the accreditor or external organization. Do not include appendices. Appendices to this form will not be accepted.

The form uses narrative, text, and drop-down boxes. Narrative boxes have a character limit, which includes spaces. When using text and drop-down boxes, if you want to undo an answer, press "Control-Z" or "Command-Z."

Note: To ensure the fillable fields function correctly, the form must be completed in Microsoft Word. It will not function properly in Google Docs. Programs that wish to record collaborative discussion of the report might consider creating a separate document to take notes, before entering final responses in the official fillable form.

For technical assistance with this form, email Academic Affairs (uaa.oaa@alaska.edu).

PROGRAM SECTION (Due to the dean on October 15)

After completing the Program Section, the program should email this form to the dean, with a copy to the appropriate community campus director(s) if the program is delivered on a community campus.

Submission date: 1/9/2023

Submitted by: Scott Hamel, Professor and Chair, sehamel@alaska.edu

Program(s) covered in this report: Civil Engineering BS
(Programs with suspended admissions and new programs in the first year of implementation are not required to complete this form.)

   If you selected "Other" above, please identify. *(100 characters or less)*

College: College of Engineering

Campuses where the program(s) is delivered: ☒**Anchorage** ☐**KOD** ☐**KPC** ☐**MSC** ☐**PWSC**

Specialized accrediting agency (if applicable): Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET
   If explanation is necessary, such as only some of the certificates and degrees are covered by the specialized accreditation, briefly describe:

INSTITUTIONAL STUDENT LEARNING CORE COMPETENCIES

In 2020, UAA launched a consensus-based, deliberative process to identify the key skillsets that help students achieve academic and post-graduation success. After a year-long process that included students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, and employers, the UAA community identified four core competencies at the heart of a quality UAA education. Students develop mastery of these competencies through curricular (e.g., courses), co-curricular (e.g., internships, conferences), and extra-curricular (e.g., student clubs) learning experiences.

After the stakeholder-based process in AY20, UAA is phasing in the integration of the core competencies into ongoing processes, including program student learning outcomes assessment. Personal, Professional, and Community Responsibility (PPCR) was integrated into the AY21 Annual Academic Assessment Report. The AY22 Annual Academic Assessment Report now also integrates Effective Communication.

Question #1 below is designed to engage program faculty in thinking about how they can or already do promote student learning in these two core competencies.

1.   **A.** *Personal, Professional, and Community Responsibility: The knowledge and skills necessary to promote personal flourishing, professional excellence, and community engagement.*

- **If last year you provided your program's current or planned example of an intentionally designed course, assignment, or activity that develops and showcases the student learning in this core competency, please discuss that implementation and any observations you have regarding how well it is working. *(500 characters or less)***

  Last year, CE A438 (Capstone) was given as a current example course. This course has been running for many years in its current form and the assessment of the resulting projects, as well as student surveys, indicate that the course is succeeding in promoting all the aspects of this competency area. The results of our Fall 2022 ABET visit confirm this, as this course was listed as a Strength of the Program.

- **If last year you *did not* identify a current or planned example of an intentionally designed course, assignment, or activity that provides students the opportunity to develop and showcase this core competency, please identify one now. *(500 characters or less)***

    B. *Effective Communication: The knowledge and skills necessary to engage in effective communication in diverse contexts and formats.*

- **What would you hope a student would say if asked where in your program or support service they had the opportunity to develop proficiency in this core competency? *(500 characters or less)***

  Communication is a major part of the professional activities of Civil Engineers. I would hope that students would point to the oral and written communications courses required in the degree, as well as the instruction and opportunities to improve their skills in two upper-level courses: CE A437 - Project Planning, and CE A438 - Design of Civil Engineering Systems (Capstone)

- **Provide your program's current or planned example(s) of an intentionally designed course, assignment, or activity that showcases the student learning in this core competency. *(500 characters or less)***

  The CE Capstone course (CE A438) requires multiple oral presentations throughout the semester with direct feedback from faculty and professionals. In addition, the students must complete a written report, plans, and specifications. They are guided throughout the production of these documents by faculty and professionals mentors, and their final products are evaluated and feedback is provided to the students about both the content and the effectiveness and format of their writing.

PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

2. **Please list the Program Student Learning Outcomes your program assessed in AY22. For each outcome, indicate one of the following: Exceeded faculty expectations, Met faculty expectations, or Did not meet faculty expectations.**

    Example: Communicate effectively in a variety of contexts and formats – Exceeded faculty expectations.

    There are 7 Program Learning Outcomes. Graduates of the program should have the ability to:

    1. identify, formulate, and solve complex engineering problems by applying principles of engineering, science, and mathematics - Met faculty expectations

    2. apply engineering design to produce solutions that meet specified needs with consideration of public health, safety, and welfare, as well as cold regions, global, cultural, social, environmental, and economic factors - Met faculty expectations

    3. communicate effectively with a range of audiences - Met faculty expectations

    4. recognize ethical and professional responsibilities in engineering situations and make informed judgments, which must consider the impact of engineering solutions in global, economic, environmental, and societal contexts - Met faculty expectations

    5. function effectively on a team whose members together provide leadership, create a collaborative and inclusive environment, establish goals, plan tasks, and meet objectives;

    6. develop and conduct appropriate experimentation, analyze and interpret data, and use engineering judgment to draw conclusions - Met faculty expectations

    7. acquire and apply new knowledge as needed, using appropriate learning strategies - Met faculty expectations.

3. **Describe your assessment process in AY22 for these Program Student Learning Outcomes, including the collection of data, analysis of data, and faculty (and other, e.g., advisory board) conversations around the findings.** *(750 characters or less)*

    The department followed the BSCE Academic Assessment Plan (AAP) (May 2018) and reported the results in the ABET Self-study report (June 2022). Assessment of the PSLOs involves Course Level Assessment (CLA) and Capstone assessment and then a complex alignment and mapping of the CLAs into PSLOs.

    In addition, two other activities from the AAP provide data: FE Exam Results and Graduate Exit Survey. The findings from each of these were discussed at the annual workshop, which was held on May 5th , 2022.

4. **What are the findings and what do they tell the faculty about student learning in your program?** *(750 characters or less)*

    The primary focus of the assessment and the annual workshop was the ABET self-study. Both the assessment process and the ABET evaluation revealed that the complex process of mapping CLAs to PSLOs did not lead to effective assessment and useful information about the PSLOs. As a result, a

significant effort was implemented in Fall 2022 to re-write the AAP.

5. **Based on the findings, did the faculty make any recommendations for changes to improve student achievement of the Program Student Learning Outcomes? Please describe the recommended action, what improvement in student learning the program hopes to see with this change, the proposed timeline, and how the program will know if the change has worked. If no recommendations for changes were made, please explain that decision. *(750 Characters or less)***

As noted above, a new process for assessing the PSLOs was created and implemented in Fall 2022. This process will be used to evaluate the PSLOs for AY22-23 in May 2023.

PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS AND ASSESSING IMPACT ON STUDENT LEARNING

6. **In the past academic year, how did your program use the results of previous assessment cycles to make changes intended to improve student achievement of the Program Student Learning Outcomes? Please check all that apply.**

☐ Course curriculum changes

☐ Course prerequisite changes

☐ Changes in teaching methods

☐ Changes in advising

☐ Degree requirement changes

☐ Degree course sequencing

☐ Course enrollment changes (e.g., course capacity, grading structure [pass/fail, A-F])

☐ Changes in program policies/procedures

☐ Changes to Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)

☐ College-wide initiatives (e.g., High-Impact Practices)

☐ Faculty, staff, student development

☒ Other

☐ No changes were implemented in AY22.

If you checked "Other" above, please describe. *(100 characters or less)*

The department and College created and implemented a review course for the FE exam

7. **Do you have any information about how well these or other past improvements are working? Are they achieving their intended goals? Please include any data or assessment results that help you demonstrate this. *(750 characters or less)***

No information on this topic yet

STUDENT SUCCESS AND THE CLOSING OF EQUITY GAPS

Student success depends on many aspects of a student's experience. On the academic program level, it can relate to correct placement, course sequencing, standardized pre-requisites across sets of courses, the intentional use of high-impact practices, proactive advising, course scheduling practices, etc.

UAA has selected the below metrics as student success metrics for accreditation.

In response to faculty questions and concerns about reporting on these data without more discussion and training, we will spend AY23 exploring together what equity data are and are not, how they can be used responsibly, and what programs can do to close equity gaps in student achievement on the below metrics, as well as to improve overall student achievement on them. UAA has a team participating in the NWCCU Data Equity Fellowship, and that team will help to guide these conversations.

8. **PROGRAMS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO RESPOND TO QUESTION #8 FOR THEIR REPORT DUE ON OCTOBER 15, 2022. IT IS HERE JUST FOR THEIR REFERENCE.** Describe the actions your program is taking to improve student achievement on one or more of the following metrics. Also, describe any resulting improvements in student learning.

Metric	Definition	Rationale
UNDERGRADUATE COURSE PASS RATES BY COURSE LEVEL (Undergraduate lower-division, undergraduate upper-division).	The percentage of students who receive a passing grade (A, B, C, P) for all undergraduate students in a course offered by a program compared to the same rate calculated for all courses at that level. Based on a 5-year trend. Included in the denominator for undergraduate courses are the grades D, F, W, I, NP, NB. *Data source: RPTP end-of-term freeze files. Disaggregate as per accreditation.*	Low pass rates are one critical way to identify courses that are barriers to student success and degree completion. Failing key courses correlates with low retention and more major switching. Mitigation strategies can be internal or external to the course itself, including, among other things, the use of high-impact pedagogical practices, appropriate placement, course sequencing, tutoring, and other means to ensure student success within a particular course. This metric and the disaggregation of the data can inform planning, decision making, and the allocation of resources to programs and services designed to mitigate gaps in achievement and equity.

Metric	Definition	Rationale
ANNUAL RETENTION 1ST TO 2ND FALL	Traditional measure of the % of first-time, full-time associate and baccalaureate degree-seeking freshmen who enter in a given fall term and return the following fall. *Data source: UA System Warehouse RPTP/DEDMGR end-of-term freeze files. Disaggregate as per accreditation on an annual basis.*	Following the student from the 1st fall to 2nd fall can indicate ongoing connections and support inside and outside of the classroom are motivating students to return to continue their studies at the institution. Continuing enrollment is a key factor in completion.
SEMESTERS TO DEGREE – GRADUATE PROGRAMS	The average number of semesters taken by students to complete any graduate degree or graduate certificate program. Determined by students who have graduated from a graduate program as their primary degree. 5-year trend. *Data source: UA System Warehouse RPTP/DEDMGR end-of-term freeze files. Disaggregate as per accreditation on an annual basis.*	Looking at the number of semesters graduate students take to complete their degrees illustrates how students progress through their degree programs (full-time, part-time, stop-out). This information on student behavior and completion can inform program structure and help the institution support students in a way that honors the time needed for rigorous intellectual engagement and growth and also ensures that students can complete in a timely manner.

9. **Do you have any examples of post-graduate success you want to highlight? For example, major scholarships, the percent of students who pass licensure examinations, the percent of students accepted to graduate programs, the percent in post-graduation employment in the field or a related field.** *(750 characters or less)*
   In AY21-22, the UAA passing rate of students that took the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) Exam was 60% (total of 15 took the exam), roughly equal to National rate of comparable schools (63%). This FE exam is the first step of the licensure process for Professional Engineering Licensure.

DEAN SECTION (Due to the program on January 15)

After completing the Dean Section and signing it, the dean should email this form to the program, and copy uaa_oaa@alaska.edu for posting. If the program is delivered on one or more community campus, the dean should consult with the appropriate community campus director(s) on the response and copy the appropriate community campus director(s) when emailing the response to the program.

1. **Based on the program's responses above, what guidance and support do you have for the program moving forward?** *(750 characters or less)*
   The ABET Draft Statement received after the October visit did give the program a Weakness for aspects of its assessment process, specifically that PIs did not cover all aspects of the SLOs, and that documentation was inconsistent for some outcomes. The program has already submitted a new assessment plan which addresses the issue with the PIs through a series of well-crafted rubrics. The plan is to submit this plan as the 30-Day Due Process Response, and then submit assessment data as a Post 30-Day Response after the end of the spring semester, in the hopes of resolving this Weakness before the 2023 ABET Summer Commission Meeting. We support this course of action and commend the program for its hard work in addressing this issue.

2. **What is the program doing particularly well in terms of its processes for the assessment and improvement of student learning, for example, the achievement of the Program Student Learning Outcomes, the closing of equity gaps, or addressing the core competencies?** *(750 characters or less)*
   The program is commended for a successful ABET visit in October 2022, and for all the accompanying preparation. The BSCE was indeed complimented by ABET as having a model capstone program, and also one of the best sets of Program Educational Objectives (PEOs) in the college. In terms of the FE, the CE faculty (along with the ME and EE faculty) have joined in a college-wide effort this year to offer a non-credit FE Exam Review series, which it is hoped will improve pass rates.

Dean's signature: _Kenrick Mock_   **Date:** 1/23/2023