

**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](mailto:uaa.oaa@alaska.edu)).

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### 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:** 10/12/2022

**Submitted by:** Bill Myers, INTL Chair, wlmyers@alaska.edu

**Program(s) covered in this report:** International Studies BA

*(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 Arts and Sciences

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

**Specialized accrediting agency (if applicable):** Select Specialized Accrediting Agency or N/A.

**If explanation is necessary, such as only some of the certificates and degrees are covered by the specialized accreditation, briefly describe:** n/a

### 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)**

Many of the INTL BA reqs. develop student learning in this competency. For example, PHIL A301 Ethics builds ethical sensitivity and civic responsibility into its course design. INTL Students performed well on assignments in these areas (11 INTL majors in two sections: 2 earned A's, 9 earned B's). Also, 7 INTL majors assessed in two UD History classes (HIST A316 and HIST A390) showed thoughtful responses to questions of ethical responsibility in historical context.
  - **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)**

Basically, every course that applies to the INTL BA develops effective communication. All majors are required to take at least 8 credits of a language; intercultural fluency and effective spoken and written communication are part of all Language courses, from the beginner's level to the advanced. INTL courses from History, Philosophy, Geography, PS all include effective communication, and intercultural fluency as part of their learning outcomes and course design.
  - **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 INTL BA's assessment rubric for its Core and Mastery course reqs. includes a PSLO of written communication, which we assess at least every other year, and often each year. Languages contributes heavily to PSLO assessment of effective communication by assessing INTL student performance in written and oral communication in its Language A202 courses every other year. GEOG A101, a gateway INTL intro course, emphasizes and assesses effective communication in key assignments.

## 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.*

- 1) Critical Thinking/Cross Cultural Awareness--met expectations
- 2) Integrative Analysis--met expectations
- 3) Written Communication--met 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)

We gathered assessment data from 7 different req. Foundational, Core and Mastery courses: GEOG A101 (2 sects.), HIST A316, HIST A390, PHIL A301 (2 sects.), PHIL A400, PS A311 and PS A321. 45 INTL majors were assessed for their performance on 3 PSLOs demonstrated on key assignments. We shared a common assessment rubric and shared the findings. Of the 45 students assessed on key assignments: 24 = A; 15=B; 4=C; 2=NB (2 who did not finish course for personal reasons, despite repeated instructor contact and accommodation). Integrative analysis results in GEOG 101 was mixed, between adequate to excellent (small sample size there may have affected results).

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

Overall, INTL faculty are pleased with the performance of the INTL majors on the three assessed PSLOs. INTL students demonstrated good to excellent critical thinking and cross cultural awareness skills. INTL majors in GEOG A101 demonstrated very good ability to think critically about global issues. Students in PS A311 and PS A321 investigated comparative national approaches to COVID responses, demonstrating strong analytical skills. In PHIL A301, INTL students demonstrated good to very good integrative thinking skills, with the A level differentiated from B and C level by the sophistication and depth of integrative analysis on assignments. INTL students demonstrated good to excellent written communication skills in all courses assessed.

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)

Overall, INTL faculty are satisfied with student performance on the PSLOs. We are continuing the current assessment process, although INTL faculty remain committed to fine-tuning and

experimenting within our individual classes to enhance student learning and performance. We constantly tweak assignments, course design and delivery (especially these last 2 years of COVID, with F2F, ZOOM, Hybrid, and asynchronous all being utilized in different combinations). INTL faculty also remain committed to high impact teaching practices (flipped classrooms, small group discussion and assignments, engaged research, close readings, intensive analytical writing, ladder assignments, among others).

## 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)**

**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)**

INTL students have consistently performed at the A and B level in all the courses assessed for the past decade. The few students who do not perform to satisfaction are often students who do not finish assignments and/or courses (mostly NB). INTL faculty go out of their way to try and ensure every student "crosses the finish line" by repeated contact, inquiry, accommodation, advising, mentoring, but some students have work, family, health, personal reasons that faculty cannot help with. We continue to monitor writing and analytical skills, especially to gauge the impact of the "Covid years" on student learning. It is worth mentioning that the top INTL students on the whole are often some of the best students in our classes.

## 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. <i>Data source: RPTP end-of-term freeze files. Disaggregate as per accreditation.</i>	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 1 <sup>ST</sup> TO 2 <sup>ND</sup> 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. <i>Data source: UA System Warehouse RPTP/DEDMGR end-of-term freeze files. Disaggregate as per accreditation on an annual basis.</i>	Following the student from the 1 <sup>st</sup> fall to 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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. <i>Data source: UA System Warehouse RPTP/DEDMGR end-of-term freeze files. Disaggregate as per accreditation on an annual basis.</i>	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)**

- An INTL and German double major grad started their MA in Linguistics at UAF this fall.
- An INTL grad serves as a Legislative Staff/Finance Aide for Senator Natasha von Imhof.
- An INTL grad is at the Alaska Institute for Justice, serving as the Coordinator of their Language Interpreter Center.
- An INTL grad is a Community Librarian at Loussac Library.
- These are just a few examples, there are many more success stories!

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**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](mailto: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 program is encouraged to continue the pursuit of high impact teaching practices and to document the use in more detail. Faculty are encouraged to promote and market the program, compiling a list of electives for each semester and documenting who the INTL faculty are would be a good start. Since the program is interdisciplinary in nature, further discussions with affiliate programs are encouraged.

**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 does a thorough job of assessing courses across multiple departments. Outcomes from the assessment of these requirements are positive and clearly referenced throughout the report.

Dean's signature:

Jenny McNulty

Date: 1/9/2023