



# UCF University-wide System for Assessing Student Learning Outcomes

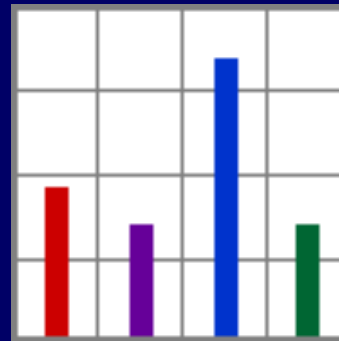
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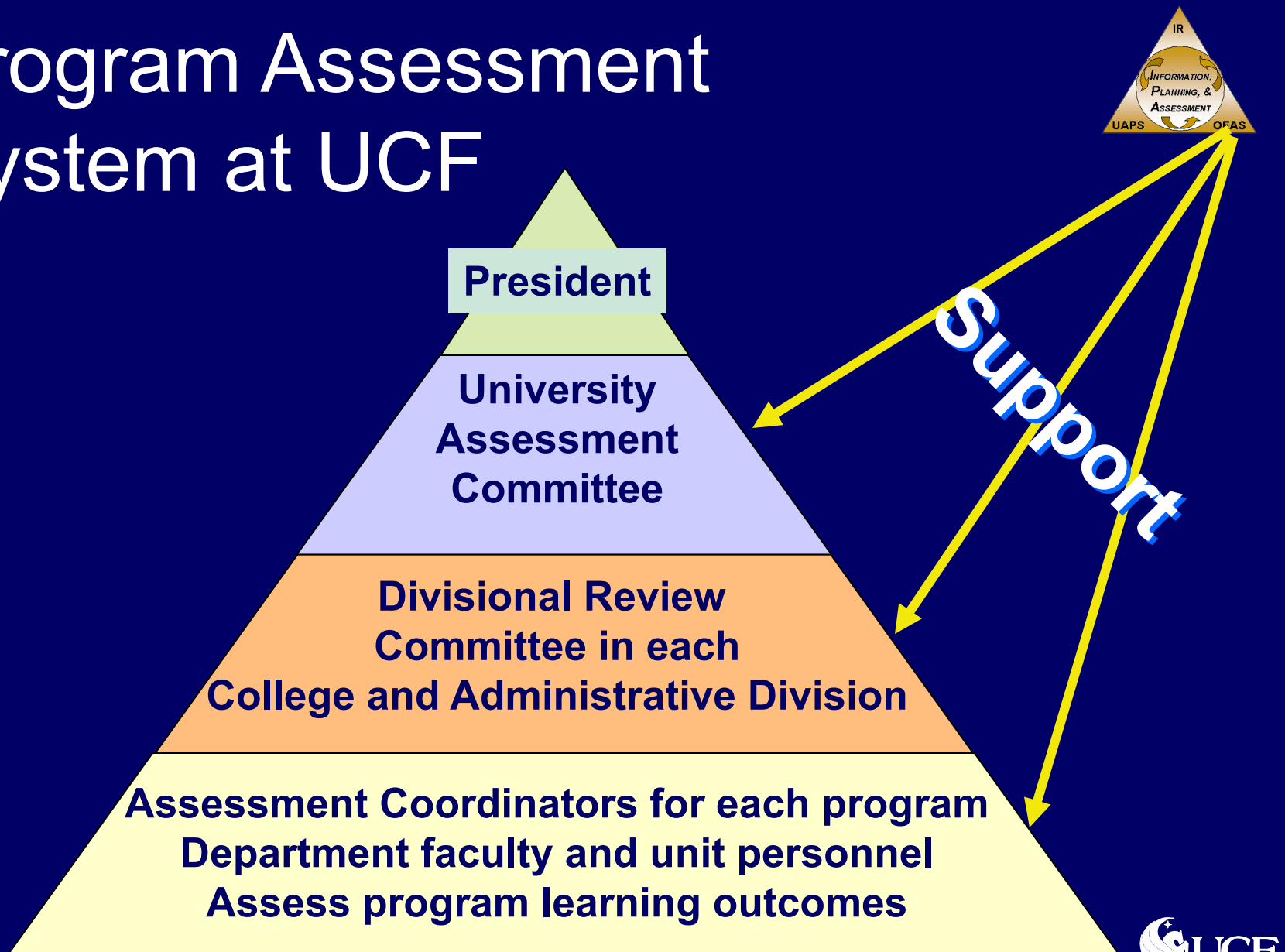
University of Central Florida

*April 21, 2004*

# Moving from Individual Programs to a University System



# Program Assessment System at UCF



# Assessment vs. Accountability



- **assessment:** process of measuring program outcomes and using the results to improve the program
- **accountability:** being held answerable for performance and actions

# Levels of Assessment



- **classroom assessment:** process of measuring individual student achievement of course outcomes
- **program assessment:** process of measuring how well students are achieving program outcomes and using the results to improve the program

# Why a University Assessment System?



- classroom assessment assesses individual students
- not sufficient
- need to assess **us**
  - **to do better**
  - **accreditation**

# Program Assessment System and Accountability



- requires student learning outcomes for each **program**
- assesses student learning and **holds each program accountable for using the results of assessment to improve the program**

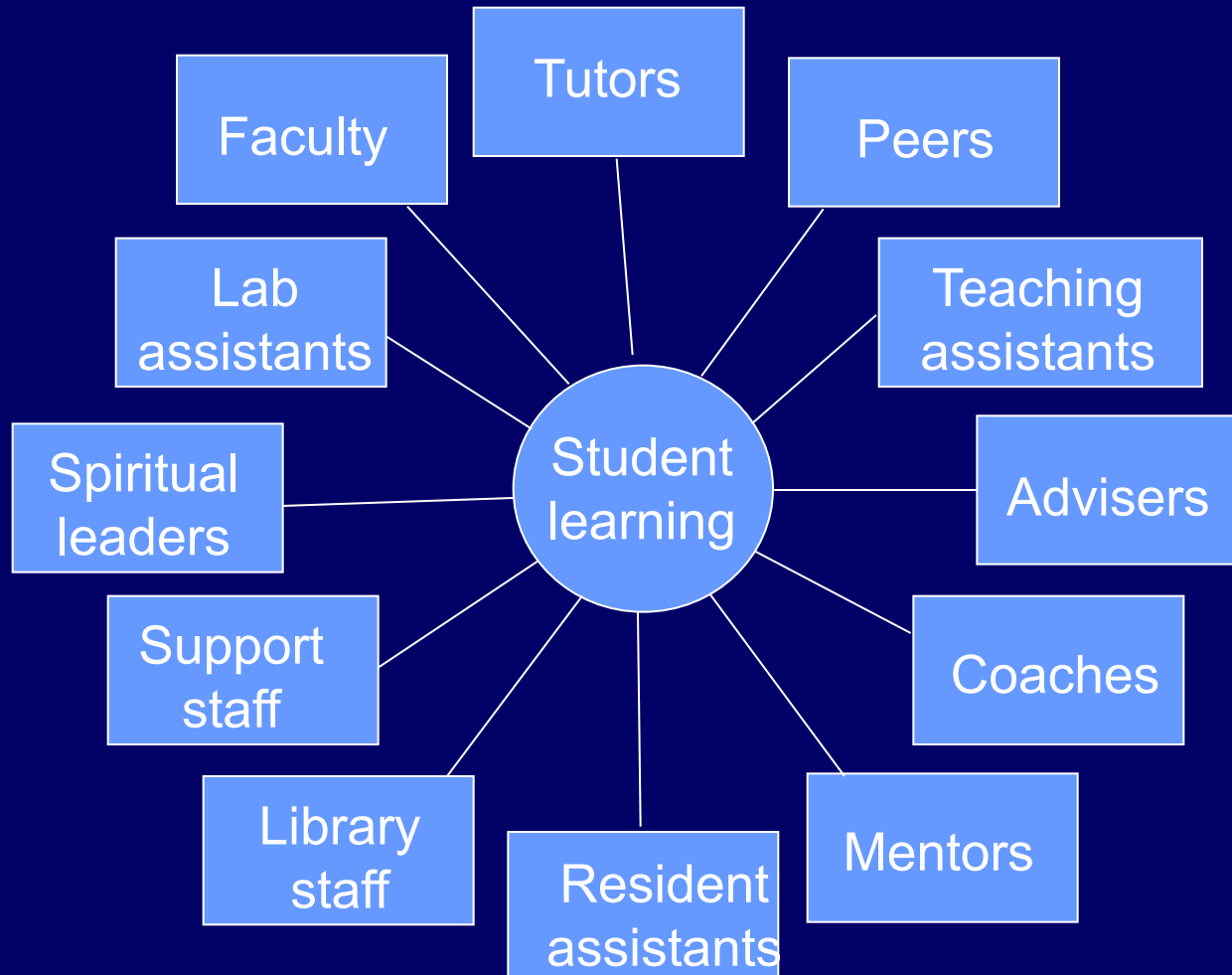
# Institutional Accountability at UCF is Based On...



- an institutionalized system of program assessment
- whether a system is in place
- how well the system is working



# Student Learning



# Student Learning Outcomes for Programs



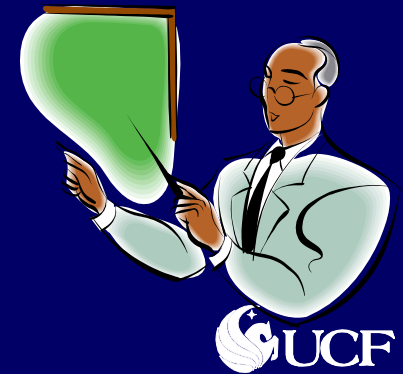
- specific statements that describe required learning achievement that must be met on the way to attaining the degree and meeting the goals of the program



# Student Learning Outcomes for Programs



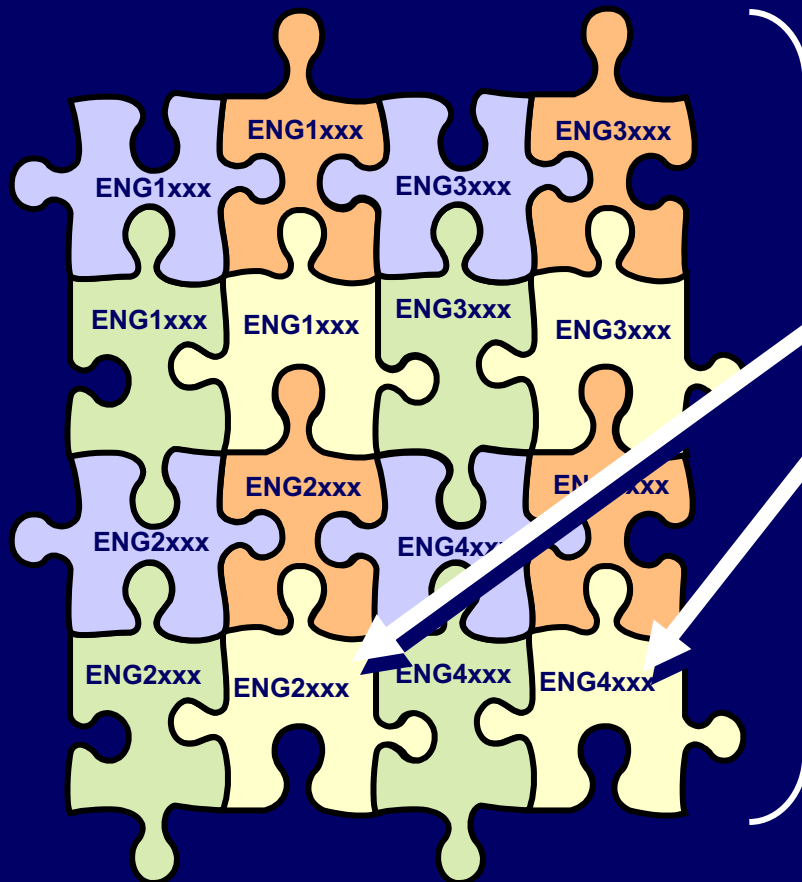
- What does the student know? (**cognitive**)
- What can the student do? (**psychomotor**)
- What does the student care about? (**affective**)



# Program Outcomes Assessment



## Courses in the Curriculum

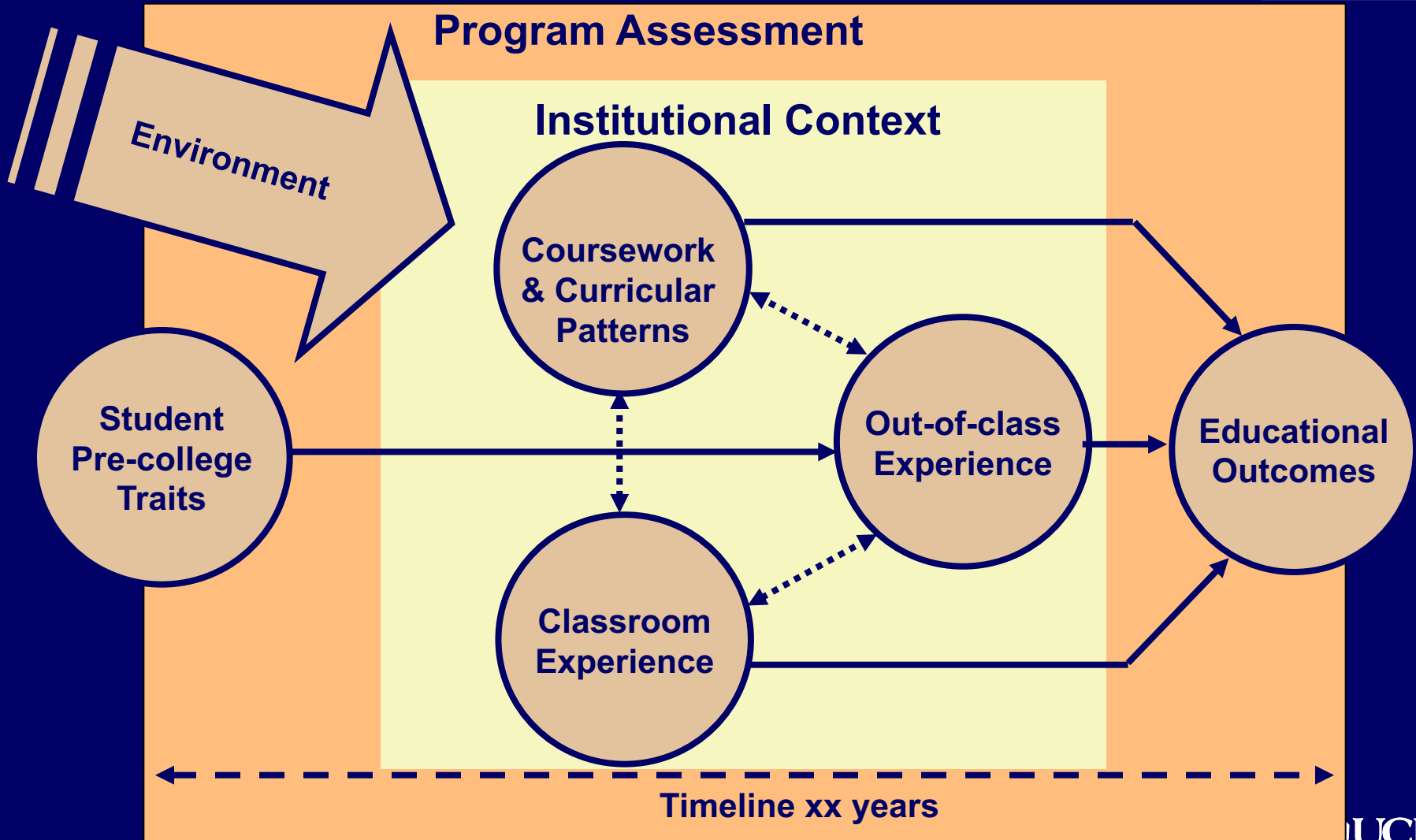


## Learning Outcomes

- oral communication
- written communication
- teamwork skills
- quantitative skills
- ethics
- discipline knowledge
- professional skills
- performance skills

PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

# Educational Outcomes



# Program Assessment Methods



- **direct measures:** direct examination or observation of student knowledge, skills, or attitudes against measurable learning outcomes
- **indirect measures:** perceived extent or value of learning experiences

# Program Assessment Methods



- written surveys and questionnaires
- exit and other interviews
- standardized exams
- locally developed exams
- student records
- focus groups
- portfolios
- simulations
- performance appraisals
- external examiner
- oral exams
- behavioral observations
- project evaluations

# Assessment Methods



- various methods have advantages and disadvantages
  - time, effort, money, and value
- must use multiple methods
- must have fit between method and outcomes
- must be useful for program improvement



# English Composition Component of UCF General Education Program



## Program Outcomes

- write a clear, analytical thesis
- provide specific textual documentation to support a thesis
- grammatical proficiency

## Assessment Methods

- review by the Composition Assessment Committee
  - portfolios
  - position projects
  - diagnostic essays
- student perception survey

# Theatre BA at UCF



## Program Outcomes

- knowledge of theatre
- ability to conduct research on a play or playwright
- ability to critique a theatrical production
- ability to gain admission to graduate school
- demonstrated success in graduate school

## Assessment Methods

- locally developed departmental exam
- written document appraisals by faculty committee
- survey of graduating seniors
- survey of graduate schools

# Theatre BFA at UCF



## Program Outcomes

- knowledge of and training in theatre
  - performance
  - design and technology
  - stage management
- ability to work in professional theatre
- ability to pursue graduate studies

## Assessment Methods

- performance appraisals of stage productions by the American College Theatre Festival
- three comprehensive exams reviewed by faculty team
- internship performance evaluations
- graduate exit survey
- portfolio reviews

# Science Education BS at UCF



## Program Outcomes

- knowledge and skills of professional science teachers
- competence in pre-professional requirements the Florida Accomplished Teaching Practices
- rehired or eligible for rehire after completing first full year of teaching secondary science

## Assessment Methods

- College of Education Professional Portfolio reviewed by faculty team
- evaluation of unit plan
- subject area sub-tests of Florida Certification Exam
- internship summative evaluation
- survey of school administrators and peer teachers
- FLDOE records

# Nursing BSN at UCF



## Program Outcomes

- written communication
- critical thinking
- planning, implementing and evaluating therapeutic nursing interventions
- success on licensure
- prepared for work in a variety of settings for entry-level positions

## Assessment Methods

- review of papers by team of faculty
- ATI Critical thinking exit exam
- review of preceptor evaluations
- NCLEX-RN performance
- alumni survey
- employer survey

# Civil Engineering BSCE at UCF



## Program Outcomes

- solve problems involving calculus, numerical methods, statistics, economics, physics
- ethics and professionalism
- conduct experiments
- communicate orally and in writing
- work in teams
- understanding need for continuing education
- conduct design project

## Assessment Methods

- course embedded exam questions
- Fundamentals of Engineering exam
- employer survey
- alumni survey
- graduating senior survey
- faculty committee review of senior design projects
- review of reports and presentations by practicing engineers

# Use of Tests for Program Assessment at UCF



- nationally-normed tests
- licensure exams
- locally developed exams
- course embedded questions
- not all programs can use exams
- some use exams only as a secondary measure
- no one uses exams alone

# Program Assessment System at UCF



- began in 1995 in response to SACS
- all academic programs (207) and administrative units (101) define and submit assessment plans annually:
  - purpose (mission) of program
  - intended program student learning outcomes and objectives
  - measurement methods



# Program Assessment System at UCF



- all academic programs and administrative units report annually:
  - results of assessment
  - changes made to program
  - results from these changes

# UCF's Program Assessment System



Academic & Administrative Units



Plans



Results



Academic and Administrative Divisional Review Committees



Reviews



**Quality Assurance**

University Assessment Committee



Approved Plans and Results



President



Program Assessment Support

- Assessment policy and process expertise
- UAC administrative support
- DRC training and support
- Unit training and support
- System development and maintenance
- Web sites
- Institutional surveys
- Unit surveys and analysis

# Extensive Documentation




Assessment Plans and Results - Visitor Menu - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Home Favorites Media Search

Address http://www2.oemas.ucf.edu/oemas/phase2/visitor\_menu.asp

Links Customize Links Windows RealPlayer Operational Excellence & Assessment Support Program Review - Menu CQI Main Menu Free AOL & Unlimited Internet Free Hotmail Windows Media

 University of Central Florida  
Continuous Quality Improvement

## Assessment Plans and Results

**View Units and Programs by Year**      **View all Years for a Unit or Program**

1996-1997      Select Unit or Program

1997-1998

2000-2001

2001-2002

2002-2003


2003-2004 Plans

*Continuous Quality Improvement supports the University's Institutional Effectiveness process.*

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# Planning and Evaluation



# Summary



- assessment of student learning is complex
- requires a multi-faceted approach
- must be purpose-driven
- program assessment is about assessing **us**
- UCF holds each program accountable for assessing student learning and taking action on the results