

**Annual Report on the Measurement of Student
Learning Outcomes
For Ongoing Program Improvement**

**Prepared by
College of Aviation
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1. *Memorandum from the dean to the provost, answering three questions:*
 - a. *For each department/unit and using the evidence provided by the departments/units and other information available to the dean, evaluate the extent and effectiveness of each unit in using student learning outcomes results for:*

1. *Informing planning at the department level*

The student learning outcomes results for AVS 2650, 3650, 4600 and 4610 were effective, as shown in both the report from the chair and the impact report. Findings from course objective indicators show students in these courses are well prepared for the aviation industry upon program completion, as reflected in their achievements of 80% first time scores and demonstration of satisfactory performance. The use of learning outcomes to alter course content ensures that education is keeping pace with the ever-changing aviation industry. Changes to prerequisites for AVS 3650 will ensure students are better prepared to communicate professionally.

Feedback from student surveys is effective in evaluating student perceptions of the program, and providing insight about equipment, facilities, and college operations to remove potential impediments to student learning.

A program review conducted by the WMU CoA Advisory Board, made up of aviation industry professionals, confirmed the programs are well constructed and have appropriate content. One suggestion was to include a business management course in the Aviation Maintenance program to prepare students who will eventually serve in management positions in maintenance.

2. *Revising goals for programs*

With the suggestion to include a business management course for students in the aviation administration program, revisions are currently being considered. This would aid in achieving the goal of preparing our students for more focused areas in the field of aviation.

3. *Articulating or aligning curriculum with new or established partnerships (e.g., K-12, community colleges)*

After review and discussion concerning student and industry feedback for the maintenance program, the college is preparing to work with Kellogg Community College and the Calhoun Area Career Center to deliver the more basic courses at the high school level. We are confident that this positive change will allow for delivery of more challenging course content, giving our graduates the best tools for success upon graduation and well into their careers.

Work is ongoing to reach agreement with KCC, by October 1, 2009, for dual enrollment in KCC and all of the three College of Aviation programs. The agreement is to be modeled on the existing agreement between KCC and the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

Initial meetings have taken place between the chair and senior administrative personnel from the Kalamazoo Regional Education Service Agency – Education for Employment (KRESA-EFE) to strengthen partnerships between the College of Aviation and KRESA. KRESA-EFE has an aviation program which should be closely tied to the college to help better prepare students for college and hence better enable them to achieve the program outcomes.

4. *Changing policies for admission or for transfer into programs*

Changes to policies for admissions or transfer students was not necessary for 2008-09, however, this may be considered once the industry begins to recover.

5. *Preparing self-studies for specialized program accreditation*

The self study for the college is due 2011 in preparation for the specialized program accreditation by the Aviation Accreditation Board International scheduled for 2012.

6. *Other uses not listed above*

N/A

b. *Evaluate the extent and effectiveness of college-level leadership and support for the use of learning outcomes results to improve student learning:*

1. *Since July 1, 2005, what documented commitment of resources (physical, fiscal, human, and technological) has the college made to advance a culture of learning? With what outcomes?*

College faculty and staff are professionals who share the goal of preparing leaders who are sought after by the aerospace industry, and engage in meaningful research that advances the knowledge base. With that said, during my tenure as dean, resources that have been committed are an aircraft fleet replacement that includes continuous upgrades to ensure that technological advances (glass cockpit technologies) mirror those of the industry. Simulator replacement and upgrades mirror the advancements of the college aircraft fleet. The CRJ simulator is an exact replica of what students will train in during their employment process in the industry. The ETA computer system has been implemented to aid students in learning. It provides immediate feedback for gauging progress, lesson review and preparation.

Gift funds were used to create a student lounge in Battle Creek that gives students a place to study, rest, and refresh as they wait for their flights or for another class to begin. Students are often found working and studying in groups as well as just enjoying down time. It is my belief that the existence of the student lounge has served to enhance the learning culture of the AEC building.

This past year the university provided bus service between Kalamazoo and Battle Creek for CoA students. This was something that the students had requested for a long time. The first year of the experiment went well, albeit there were not as many travelers as we hoped. This was due to a number of issues, primarily scheduling and the number of return journeys available. The College and the University are working together to try to provide a more suitable bus service for the students.

- 2. For 2008-09, were resources allocated to academic units based in part at least on the results of student learning outcomes?*

As with the entire University community, resources are limited and the college is responsible for generating more than half of its entire operating budget. In 2008-09 teaching aids were increased and equipment was upgraded in aviation maintenance to maintain validity in teaching and remove potential barriers to student success. A needs list has been completed in various areas for the college 10 year plan, and once resources become available we will be prepared by prioritizing the needs as they affect student learning. Additionally, classroom teaching aids were deemed outdated and in need of replacement. The college, working with the Office of Information Technology (OIT), has a plan in place to upgrade teaching aids in the college classrooms and hopes to have this work completed by the start of classes in fall 2009, or at the latest, spring 2010.

- 3. Does the college academic advising unit have a documented plan to regularly assess (a) delivery of services and (b) student learning outcomes in the context of academic advising? If so, (a) when was the most recent assessment of each, and (c) what improvements in academic advising have occurred as a result of the assessment of student learning outcomes?*

Aviation advising does not have a plan to assess delivery of services or outcomes in the context of academic advising. The college has recently hired a new director of advising who will be preparing such a plan to use in assessment.

- 4. To what extent have the dean and the associate dean charged with responsibility for assessment of student learning demonstrated their understanding of the importance of assessment to student learning?*

The importance of assessment to student learning has been demonstrated by me in various ways. For example, my industry experience provides me with insight into the challenges our graduates will face upon program completion. Knowing how quickly the field of aviation changes, it is imperative that we continue to assess test scores against other programs in the nation, assess the validity of equipment in labs and classrooms, and monitor the success of our graduates once in their field. Training equipment has been actively sought from donors and upgrades continue to be a top priority. Having measurable goals provides us with data that is critical to making necessary changes to programs, equipment and operations to ensure the success of our students and the University. It is my responsibility to see that the college faculty, staff and students have the necessary tools to continue to realize our vision, mission and goals.

We have hired an associate dean who will start work November 2009. One of his responsibilities includes work on assessment of student learning. We anticipate that he will work with the faculty and chair as well as students to help refine our assessment processes and procedures.

c. *What are the 2009-10 college goals for the use of learning outcomes results to improve student learning?*

The college goals for 2009-10 include using a senior student survey to assess student satisfaction of the program, facilities, equipment and operation.

The College Curriculum Committee is also charged with using assessment of student learning outcomes as a tool to drive curriculum change and will be increasing activities on this charge during 2009-10