Office of Graduate Admissions & Program Evaluations

Learning Outcomes Summary for the Academic Cycle of 2013-2014

Assessment of Graduation Workshop Effectiveness – Spring 2014

Overview and Findings

1) Using direct assessment tools, we developed a 10-question pre and post-test to be administered at our graduation workshop. The pre-test was given before the actual presentation to measure how much knowledge they might already have about graduation requirements. The presentation was then offered. After the presentation, the post-test was administered. The post-test is the same exact test as the pre-test. We were interested to see if their knowledge of graduation requirements had increased after the presentation.

2) Students expressed that they were thankful that such a workshop existed because not only were they being advised of program requirements, most were not sure of university requirements. It seemed to take quite a while for the participants to complete the 10-question pre-test. It was expected that it would take 5 minutes, however it took 10 minutes of completion time. During the presentation, participants were encouraged to ask questions throughout the presentation and they took the opportunity to do so. The advisor of the program voluntarily attended as well and was able to offer answers pertaining to department requirements.

3) We discovered an increase in the knowledge of graduation requirements by comparing the post-test results with the pre-test results. Pre-test results showed 54% of the test was answered correctly. Post-test results showed 87% of the test was answered correctly. We initially expected a 25% increase in correct responses, however the comparison yielded a 61% increase in correct responses.

4) We learned that the graduation workshop did increase the students’ knowledge of graduation requirements. Not only did we see an increase in correct answers, we were contacted by students that were not able to attend the workshop and requested that the presentation slides be provided to them.

Recommendations and Next Steps

Our next step in providing this successful workshop is to find a better time to offer this presentation. We initially invited over 200 students and only had 10 participants. We will need to consider whether or not to invite an entire college or consider going into class time to offer the presentation. The workshop was offered during the evening. Although this seems sensible for graduate students, we may want to consider offering it during the day as well. It was also offered only once during the semester. Exploring opportunities to offer multiple times during the semester may better support our graduate students on a grand scale.