

Your Spartan Guide to WASC:

Quality Assurance: Assessment

Program Planning

Program review is called “program planning,” to emphasize the future-oriented action plan that results from planning. It is the process by which SJSU assures the integrity and accountability of our programs, and promotes continuous improvement.

The Program Planning Committee (PPC) reviews all degree programs, minors, certificates, and credentials every five years unless a program is externally accredited every seven years or less.

The program planning process allows programs to tell their own story and explain the resources they will need to move forward. In it, programs evaluate their alignment with SJSU’s overall strategic plan and are evaluated externally and by the PPC. The final step is an action plan meeting facilitated by the chair of program planning between the program, dean of respective college, AVP of graduate and undergraduate programs, and provost. The action plan was implemented in 2013, it is too soon to determine the effectiveness of this process.

Annual Assessments

The annual assessment reports require programs to reflect and report on their assessment results, focusing on one or two program learning outcomes (PLOs) per year. Over the course of a five-year cycle, all PLOs must be assessed and reported. The connection between program planning and annual assessment encourages programs to engage in a continuous cycle of assessment, review, and improvement. In addition, all programs receive written and verbal feedback from their college Assessment Facilitator each year, which further serves to build a robust culture of assessment at SJSU.

The revised [annual assessment form](#) includes three parts: 1) PLOs and their assessment, map of PLOs to the ULGs and the curriculum, assessment schedule, and the student experience; 2) graduation/retention rates, average section size, student-to-faculty ratio, and percentage of tenured and tenure-track instruction; and 3) documentation of improvements implemented, evidence collected, conclusions, and “closing the loop” with reference to the action plan from program planning.

In spring 2014, annual assessment reports were submitted by over 92% (149/161) of degree programs.



Institutional Effectiveness and Analytics

IEA provides assessment information, decision support, and analyses to support the educational mission of SJSU. This information is made available to the public through dashboards on the IEA website.

The IEA unit reports to the Deputy Provost for Academic Planning and Budgets and serves as the official data reporter to federal, state and regional agencies.

IEA is also responsible for conducting institutional-level research and preparing information in support of institutional accountability, academic program planning, strategic planning, and accreditation processes. IEA has recently been restructured and is continuing to improve accuracy and timelines of reporting. A new director of IEA, Scott Heil, was appointed in the spring 2015.

For more information about this section of the WASC report, program planning, and assessment processes, visit the following links:

- www.sjsu.edu/wasc/portfolio
- www.sjsu.edu/ugs/faculty/planning
- www.sjsu.edu/ugs/faculty/assessment

Assessment of GE

The Board of General Studies (BOGS) oversees the General Education program. BOGS is only allowed to review courses for recertification at the time that the program that houses the GE course completes the program planning review.

