

Chapter 12: GRADUATE PROGRAMS ASSESSMENT

While undergraduate programs have some student learning outcomes that are relevant to all student, graduate programs do not. This makes summarizing assessment across graduate programs difficult. Rather, assessment must be individually tailored to each graduate program.

Truman State University offers several different graduate programs that allow the student to earn a Master's degree, licensure, or certification. There currently are nine graduate programs available. For the purposes of discussing relevant assessments, these can be provided into professional and liberal arts. Professional programs include Accounting, Communication Disorders, Counseling, Education, and Professional Science in Bioscience Informatics. Liberal Arts programs include Biology, English, Leadership and Music.

Assessment in graduate programs is administered by the faculty and department chair with oversight by the Dean of Graduate Studies. Though the frequency of assessment depends on the program, most assessments are administered annually. One instrument administered by the Office of Graduate Studies is the Graduate Student Exit Questionnaire. It is somewhat similar to the Graduating Student Questionnaire (GSQ), but is targeted to the experiences of graduate students. It is currently under revision.

One example of graduate level assessment in the Liberal Arts comes from English. The English department has plans to collect theses and other examples of student work. These will be systematically evaluated for program improvement.

Implementing assessments has been easier for professional programs because of the natural linkages to licensure and accreditation. For example, the Master of Accountancy program must present assessment data as part of their accreditation by the International Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). Furthermore, pass rates for the CPA exam are transparent measures of student success.