# Annual Report of the University Assessment Panel

**2023-2024**

The specific responsibilities of the University Assessment Panel (UAP) include reviewing the university mission statement and the IBHE *A Thriving Illinois: Higher Education Paths to Equity, Sustainability, and Growth* strategic plan as a context for assessment; coordinating assessment activities at the undergraduate and graduate levels and in academic support areas; promoting campus-wide assessment activities to improve learning; supporting departments in preparing the assessment component of discipline-specific accreditation reviews; helping position the university for reaccreditation by the Higher Learning Commission; and reviewing department assessment activities in conjunction with program review.

The UAP, led by Amy Buhrow, chair and assistant vice provost of Assessment and Accreditation, and Carrie Zack, assistant chair and associate director of Accreditation, Assessment and Evaluation, met 10 times, beginning September 15, 2023 and ending April 5, 2024.

The Accreditation, Assessment, and Evaluation Office (AAE) staff reviewed each assessment plan and mid-cycle status report and then shared draft feedback with the UAP. UAP members had documents available for optional review. Reports and draft feedback were discussed at meetings, and then AAE staff and select UAP members met with program leaders to deliver feedback. AAE staff provided aggregated summaries of the feedback offered to program leaders and their responses to the feedback to the UAP.

Fifteen assessment plans and mid-cycle status reports were reviewed in 2023-2024.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

* B.A./B.S. in English
* M.A. in English
* Ph.D. in English
* M.S. in Statistics
* B.S. in Mathematical Sciences
* M.S. in Mathematical Sciences
* Ph.D. in Mathematical Sciences
* B.A./B.S. in Communication Studies
* M.A. in Communication Studies
* B.A./B.S. in Journalism

College of Education

* M.S. in Educational Research, Evaluation and Assessment
* Ph.D. in Instructional Technology
* M.S.Ed. in Educational Psychology
* Ph.D. in Educational Psychology
* Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

Throughout the year UAP members and AAE staff worked to restart cocurricular assessment. A cocurricular task force formed with Amy Buhrow, Carrie Zach, Michaela Holtz and Nestor Osorio. The task force identified 21 co-curricular programs that play a crucial role in enhancing student learning by offering activities and experiences that strongly align with NIU's mission, vision, values, and Baccalaureate Student Learning Outcomes. The task force also created a Cocurricular Unit Assessment Plan and Summary template.

To expand campus-wide assessment capabilities, UAP supported four AAE workshops, all offered once face-to-face and once online, Annual Assessment Update and Assessment Summary Report and Cocurricular Assessment orientations, an online study of the book *Advancing Assessment for Student Success* by Driscoll et al. and the Assessment of Student Learning Showcase.

The UAP made one change to its by-laws adding a nonvoting representative from the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning. With this addition, the panel anticipates improved communication and understanding of assessment-related professional development needs, more timely interventions and a more proactive approach to optimizing assessment practice on campus.

In 2023-2024, UAP members contributed to the Higher Learning Commission Comprehensive Evaluation and participated in various discussions and activities that have supported campus-wide assessment efforts to improve student learning in and out of the classroom.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amy Buhrow

University Assessment Panel Chair

Assistant Vice Provost for Assessment and Accreditation