

## **Best-Practice Assessment...Happening at Marquette!**

*Many departments at Marquette have implemented high-quality program assessments, effectively using best practices at many stages of the cycle. Below, you will find brief descriptions of best-practice assessment components, along with short lists of Marquette programs that did exemplary work in each area on their AY 2014 reports. Remember: you can view these programs' assessment reports on ARMS!*

### **Effective Student Learning Outcomes...**

- ...describe what students should be able to demonstrate, represent or produce.
- ...are stated in clear and specific terms, using precise active verbs.
- ...focus on the learning result, not the process.
- ...can be reasonably observed and measured.
- ...are aggressive but attainable.

*Marquette Best-Practice Programs: Corporate Communications Masters, EDPL College Student Personnel Masters, Human Resources Masters, MSCS Computing Masters, Career Services*

### **Effective Rubrics...**

- ...align with student learning outcomes, so that what is taught is what is assessed.
- ...use examples and precise descriptors to distinguish between levels of performance.
- ...give instructors and students the information they need to plan for focused learning.

*Marquette Best-Practice Programs: Mechanical Engineering PhD, Computer Engineering Major, Communication Masters, Healthcare Technologies Management Masters, Leadership and Organizations Major, English as a Second Language program*

### **Effective Curriculum Maps...**

- ...align learning outcomes with courses (requirements, experiences) that address them.
- ...use indicators to show where topics are introduced, reinforced, and assessed.
- ...evolve with the assessment cycle to reflect changes in the discipline
- ...help align program practices with learning outcomes by revealing gaps or redundancies in the curriculum.

*Marquette Best-Practice Programs: Biological Sciences Major, Clinical Mental Health Counseling Masters, School Counseling Masters, Accounting Masters*

### **Effective Evidence Analysis...**

- ...breaks evidence down in enough detail to reveal specific patterns and discrepancies.
- ...tracks evidence over time to show change, especially in response to department actions.
- ...gives stakeholders a clear, actionable sense of program strengths and weaknesses.

*Marquette Best-Practice Programs: Education Initial Teacher Certification, History Major, Counseling Center*

### **Effective Reflections...**

- ...emerge from an inclusive, collaborative process.
- ...are thorough, in-depth, specific--going beyond a superficial "we're fine"
- ...are realistic and proactive about weaknesses revealed by evidence.
- ...focus on growth, turning information into action.

*Marquette Best-Practice Programs: History Major, English Major, Human Resources Masters, Political Science Major, Career Services*