

Assessment of Non-Academic Outcomes (Fall 2003 and Spring 2004)

Please provide the information below about how your unit assesses the extent to which it meets its expected outcomes. If you need assistance, please contact Dr. Virginia Wheelless at 565-2085 or on Groupwise email. This information is due in the Planning Office no later than February 2, 2004 and will be updated annually.

Unit: Center for Interdisciplinary Research and Analysis Date January 22, 2004

Person Completing the Information Linda Monaco Email lmonaco@coe.unt.edu

Head of the Unit: Linda Monaco Email lmonaco@coe.unt.edu

I.

Mission Statement Center for Interdisciplinary Research and Analysis

The purpose of the Center for Interdisciplinary Research and Analysis will be to support the research needs of graduate students and faculty within the College of Education with an overall goal of improving the quantity and quality of research produced by faculty and students. The College provides professional development for large numbers of students in its 14 master's and 9 doctoral programs, with research training an essential component in all graduate programs. Due to the centrality of research to the mission of the College, the Center for Interdisciplinary Research and Analysis will work closely with graduate programs to ensure graduate students are well prepared to understand and critically analyze research at the master's level and to create quality research at the doctoral level. Further, the Center will work collaboratively with the Office of the COE Dean; the Associate Dean for Outreach, Professional Development, and Research; the four College departments; coordinators of the various graduate programs housed in the College; the COE Graduate Affairs Committee, the Graduate School; and other key persons and committees to assure that the research needs of faculty and students are adequately addressed.

Recognizing that "research activity by graduate students, under faculty supervision, is at the heart of the graduate teaching/learning experience" (*UNT 1999/2000 Graduate Bulletin*, p. 7), the Center will interact with faculty from all academic departments and programs within the COE and beyond to assure the research competencies of graduate students. Specifically, the Center will serve the College community via (a) provision of the research assistance services of the Educational Research Laboratory, (b) fostering of collaborative research efforts among faculty, students, and other research partners (e.g., school districts, other universities, communities agencies), and (c) provision of professional development opportunities focused on the enhancement of faculty and student skills in research design, measurement, evaluation, statistics, and data analysis.

Commensurate with the University's commitment to "the discovery and application of knowledge through research and creative activities" and its dedication to "supporting research...activities that advance knowledge, strengthen undergraduate and graduate programs, and promote the application of knowledge for the benefit of society" (*UNT 1999/2000 Graduate Bulletin*, p. 5), the Center for Interdisciplinary Research and Analysis will strive to become a leading entity in the College for assuring graduate students' research competence, most notably envisioned by, but not limited to (a) the regular review of coursework and other activities designed to build students' research skills, (b) the institution of standards to facilitate continuous improvement in the quality of doctoral dissertations, and (c) promotion of efforts to assure the recognition of outstanding research efforts by students. All Center activities

focused on improvement of student research competence will be the result of collaborative deliberations among faculty across the College, and all recommendations for student research requirements will be forwarded to the COE Dean and other levels of authority for approval.

Finally, the Center will work with other entities in the College and the University to address the research needs of College faculty and students, including, but not limited to, the following: (a) identifying and facilitating the work of collaborative teams of faculty and students who have common research interests, (b) assisting faculty and students in research design, analysis of research data, and preparation and review of scholarly manuscripts with the potential of increasing the College's research productivity, (c) provision of data analytic and evaluation services to various funded projects within the College and beyond.

II. Previous Evaluations of the Unit:

Assessments Conducted:

Informal surveys of center users have been conducted to ensure that their needs were being met. Statistical records were analyzed to determine the amount of time clients spent in the center and the programs in the COE that were being served.

Changes Made:

Center personnel increased their efforts to ensure that staff and students were aware of the Center's existence by email, flyers and visits to classrooms.

III. Statement of Expected Outcomes:

Outcomes:

1) 100% of dissertation students to utilize the center will successfully defend their dissertations and graduate within six months of their final visit.

This outcome supports student learning and development by increasing their understanding of the data analysis component of their dissertation.

2) 100% of the students who come to the Center for tutoring will receive a C or better in the course for which they were being tutored.

This outcome supports student learning and development by increasing their understanding of research course content.

3) The majority of the center's clients will be very satisfied with the services they received.

IV. Measuring Expected Outcomes:

Outcome One will be measured by contacting the student and/or looking at university records.

Outcome Two will be measured by contacting the student at the end of the semester.

Outcome Three will be measured by an annual survey of the center's clients.

V. Use of Assessment Results:

The results of the assessments listed above will be gathered by the center's staff and will be discussed in planning meetings designed to improve the center's quality of services.

VI. Changes Made Based on Assessment Results:

Changes:

More effort has been expended to spread the word about the center's existence (2003-04).

More current instructional materials have been purchased.

The Center is expanding its focus to include program evaluation, area school district collaboration and grant writing.

Signature of Person Completing the Form:

_____ Date _____

Signature of Unit Head after Reviewing the Form:

_____ Date _____