
Action Project

Institution: Upper Iowa University

Submitted: 2008-03-28

Timeline:

Planned project kickoff date: 2008-02-01

Target completion date: 2011-03-31

Actual completion date:

A. Give this Action Project a short title in 10 words or fewer:

Aligning majors with the University's Strategic Plan

B. Describe this Action Project's goal in 100 words or fewer:

University Mission and strategic plan. The project will build upon the work of a previous AQIP Committee on assessment of general education in realigning assessment to a student-centered model. The project will address continuity across the University and adherence to standards in each major area of study and provide background information for the quadrennial review of the majors. Recommendations emerging from the process will prompt curricular modifications by divisions and be subject to approval through the academic governance process.

C. Identify the single AQIP Category which the Action Project will most affect or impact:

Primary Category: Helping Students Learn

D. Describe briefly your institution's reasons for taking on this Action Project now -- why the project and its goals are high among your current priorities:

A strategic planning initiative is underway and this project supports that effort. The majors represent the core business of UIU – learning, education and credentialing -- and provide important input to the planning process. The majors also provide opportunities to align with strategic directions that may be identified during the planning process.

E. List the organizational areas - -institutional departments, programs, divisions, or units -- most affected by or involved in this Action Project:

The academic divisions, the Extended University's academic administrative unit and the International Program will be involved in this project.

F. Name and describe briefly the key organizational process(es) that you expect this Action Project to change or improve:

Academic advising will be more easily accomplished due to more consistent degree plans across the University. Student recruiting and admissions will be enhanced by having a consistent set of distinctive majors, appropriately distributed among the delivery modalities that are available. Assessment of majors against current standards will strengthen the majors and make graduates more competitive in the global marketplace.

G. Explain the rationale for the length of time planned for this Action Project (from kickoff to target completion):

The project involves all academic majors, so it will require at least three years for completion.

H. Describe how you plan to monitor how successfully your efforts on this Action Project are progressing:

The Alignment Team sponsors will report to the AQIP Steering Committee at each meeting.

I. Describe the overall "outcome" measures or indicators that will tell you whether this Action Project has been a success or failure in achieving its goals:

Capstone experiences and quadrennial assessments of the majors will reflect the enhancement of global awareness and outcomes for majors will be measured against current academic standards. The constellation of majors and their distribution across the operating units will reflect the strategic direction of the university.

J. Other information (e.g., publicity, sponsor or champion, etc.):

Linda L. Haines, Dean of the Extended University, hainesl@uiu.edu, 414-475-4155 and Katherine McCarville, Assistant Professor of Geosciences, mccarvillek@uiu.edu, 563-425-5233

Last Action Project Update:

A. Describe the past year's accomplishments and the current status of this Action Project.

B. Describe how the institution involved people in work on this Action Project.

C. Describe your planned next steps for this Action Project.

D. Describe any "effective practice(s)" that resulted from your work on this Action Project.

E. What challenges, if any, are you still facing in regards to this Action Project?

F. If you would like to discuss the possibility of AQIP providing you help to stimulate progress on this action project, explain your need(s) here and tell us who to contact and when?
