

**Case Western Reserve University
School of Dental Medicine**

Annual Report on Assessment Activities

The School of Dental Medicine has approached outcomes assessment from a systematic and comprehensive perspective. Organizationally, the process is embedded into the fabric of the vision and mission statements, strategic planning outcomes, goal and objectives definition and finally, the articulation of the outcomes expected. The process is driven by what the faculty has defined as the School's mission through the strategic planning process. The result, strategic directions, define the specific objectives that the faculty have determined to be important for the success of the School and the academic program.

Outcome Assessment is defined around the primary mission statements regarding the Educational Program, Scholarship and Research, Service and Patient Care. The program objectives are outlined for each of the mission categories. Results are tracked quarterly by the Committee on Outcome Assessment which has a template of program objectives and expected outcomes for each of the mission categories. The results of the outcome evaluation are shared with the Dean and then the faculty to monitor program progress. Adjustments to the outcome assessment plan are made to both program objectives and to level of expected outcome on a regular basis. Specific outcomes may be tracked for several years, then when expected outcomes have been consistently achieved, new objectives and outcomes may be monitored to evaluate program development and new outcomes.

The results of the Outcome Assessment process is used to improve School outcomes in the areas defined by the School's mission statement. The process is systematic, ongoing, and comprehensive. Results are used to determine continued and new areas of monitoring, and for resource allocation.

Specific objectives related to the Pre-doctoral educational program are defined in the Competencies for Graduates Document. This document defines 15 domains for content deemed necessary for the student to have mastered by graduation and the educational objectives that define each domain. The document represents the knowledge, skills, and values a graduate is expected to have acquired by graduation. Correlating documents tie our curriculum content areas (courses) to the specific competency statements. An Educational Outcome Plan document lists the ways in which each competency statement is assessed (and by what methods) throughout the curriculum, across the four years.

These documents and processes define the comprehensive approach to outcome assessment at the School of Dental Medicine. The program for outcomes determination and outcomes assessment has been extremely successful in tracking School progress and guiding the School towards continuous improvement. The process has contributed to and been facilitated by the strategic planning process at the School over the last 6 years.

The post-doctoral educational programs at the School of Dental Medicine have the same level of educational competency expectations and outcomes documentation. These are professional requirements for accreditation in both the pre-doctoral and post-doctoral programs.

The School of Dental Medicine's contribution to the University's NCA accreditation process in the area of outcome assessment is comprehensive and complete at this time. The School of Dental Medicine has detailed requirements for both the pre-doctoral and post-doctoral program competency and outcome expectations based on our professional accreditation requirements by the American Dental Association. The School has recently been externally validated in this area by our fall 2002 accreditation site visit results during which the School received commendation for its systematic and comprehensive approach to Outcome Assessment.

Attachments:

1. Case Competencies for Graduates Document
2. Educational Outcome Plan
3. Case School of Dental Medicine Outcomes Assessment Results