Annual Report on Program Learning Outcomes Assessment

Program: BA in Physics: Graduate Option
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College/School Contact and Title: Susan Jackson, Senior Associate Dean
Date: 10/28/14

1. List the learning outcomes for the program:
   • demonstrate a thorough understanding of the core areas of physics including: mechanics, electricity and magnetism, thermal and statistical physics, and quantum mechanics, along with the mathematics necessary for qualitative and quantitative analysis in these areas.
   • demonstrate the capability of acquiring, analyzing, and interpreting quantitative data in the core areas of physics.
   • demonstrate the ability to assess and solve new and unfamiliar problems in physics, especially those that cross core area boundaries.

2. Where are these outcomes published?
   All outcomes will be published on the university assessment website as well as on the physics department website at http://physics.bu.edu/learningoutcomes.html

3. How do you determine whether learning outcomes have been achieved?
   a. What evidence do/will you gather?
      i. What evidence do you currently have available to begin assessment, or what do you currently use?
         • Sample exams and homeworks from the relevant core courses: PY408, PY406, PY 452, PY410 and PY581.
         • GRE Scores.
         • Graduate school and job placements.
      ii. What tools might you like to implement and/or what materials would you like to gather in the future to improve program assessment?
         • The department will develop an exit questionnaire for graduating seniors.
         • The department will conduct an annual focus group of graduating seniors.
         • The department will conduct a focus group among alumnae attending our bi-annual alumnae reunion.

   b. Who interprets the evidence?
   Learning outcomes will be assessed annually by the undergraduate committee and the instructors of the relevant core courses.
4. Please list the dates of the most recent program reviews and indicate other venues in which you’ve discussed program learning outcomes:
   a. External accreditation review, if applicable:
      N/A
   b. Internal (department, school/college, or overseer), if applicable:
      N/A
   c. Internal (Provost’s academic program review, a.k.a. APR):
      N/A
   d. Other discussions
      N/A

5. Have you made curricular changes as a result of the information gleaned? If so, what?
   None.

6. All programs must have assessed all outcomes and acted upon their assessments by May 2017. Please project a schedule, by year, for an annual cycle of assessment for your program.
   2. 2015-16: Second Annual assessment in spring 2016. The department will review the assessment procedure and make recommendations for changes and improvements for the assessment in spring 2017.
   3. 2016-17: The department will review the prior assessments in the fall of 2016 and make recommendations to the undergraduate program.