Assessment Plan – Academic Programs

(Form AAP)

Physics	B.S.
(Name of Academic Degree Program)	**(Degree Level)**

James L. Cox, PhD	Professor and Chairman	2000-2001
(Completed by:)	**(Title)**	**(Academic Year)**

Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose: *In this section, please provide a statement that demonstrates how your program relates to your college's or division's statement of institutional purpose and, through the college or division, to Old Dominion University's mission and goals.*

Institutional Mission Reference: The B.S. degree program provides students a high quality undergraduate program in physics that meets national standards of excellence. The faculty of the Department of Physics is committed to maintaining this high quality and to providing the broadest possible range of options for graduates in their subsequent employment and graduate education. Graduates of this program are equipped to address a broad array of societal needs, with special emphasis on those that require a strong grounding in physics.

Institutional Goal(s) Supported: This program supports the University's initiative for a distinctive undergraduate experience (Initiative 1 of Strategic Plan; University Mission Statement) and the general goal of excellence in teaching.

Please provide Intended (Student) Outcomes for your program, Methods for Assessment, and Criteria for Success for each Intended Outcome in appropriate boxes below. (*There should be a minimum of 3 Intended Outcomes and maximum of 10, with 3 to 5 outcomes being typical.)*

Intended Outcome 1: Graduates will acquire a strong grounding in basic physics at the undergraduate level that will enable them to be nationally competitive in their subsequent search for higg-quality professional employment or graduate education.

Method for Assessing Outcome 1 and Criterion for Success: Graduating seniors are required to take the Major Field Test in Physics, a nationally normed test prepared and graded by the Educational Testing Service in Princeton, NJ. The departmental goal is to maintain average performance on the Major Field Test by graduates of this program at or above the national average.

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 1 and Criterion for Success (*NOTE: Alternate methods are optional)*: Graduating seniors are given exit interviews to determine their views on the quality of this program. A database will be maintained for graduates in order to learn of their success in subsequent employment and graduate education.

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Intended Outcome 2: All graduates must be able to communicate effectively in writing.

Method for Assessing Outcome 2 and Criterion for Success: All graduates are required to pass the University's Exit Examination of Writing Proficiency.

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 2 and Criterion for Success (*NOTE: Alternate methods are optional)*: All graduates must write a Senior Thesis, and the quality of their writing is one of the criteria used to determine the acceptance of the Senior Thesis.

Intended Outcome 3: Graduates must be able to make effective oral presentations on topics in physics.

Method for Assessing Outcome 3 and Criterion for Success: All graduates are required to complete a Senior Thesis. A public presentation at a departmental colloquium on the results of that thesis is one of the requirements for completion of the Senior Thesis. A committee of faculty members determines the adequacy of the presentation.