Assessment Plan – Academic Programs

(Form AAP)

Physics	M.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 M.S. program of the Department of Physics offers graduate students high-quality instruction at an advanced professional level that meets national standards of excllence. This program supports the University's mission of providing advanced scientific education for the region, state, and nation.

Institutional Goal(s) Supported: This program supports the University goals of high-quality graduate programs and high-quality 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: Students must demonstrate the ability to communicate orally about topics in advanced physics.

Method for Assessing Outcome 1 and Criterion for Success: All students must complete one semester of a graduate seminar in which they are each required to make presentations on assigned topics. Their performances are judged by assigned faculty members. The presentation of a research paper at a national physics meeting can be substituted for one semester of this seminar.

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 1 and Criterion for Success (*NOTE: Alternate methods are optional)*: A student who chooses the thesis-option must defend the thesis in an oral examination conducted by his or her faculty advisory committee.

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Intended Outcome 2: Students must demonstrate the ability to communicate in writing about topics in advanced physics.

Method for Assessing Outcome 2 and Criterion for Success: All students must complete a prescribed core of courses in advanced physics in which writing is a significant component.

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 2 and Criterion for Success (*NOTE: Alternate methods are optional)*: A student who choose the thesis-option must submit a thesis based on his or her research, and the quality of the writing is one of the criteria used to approve that thesis.

Intended Outcome 3: Students must demonstrate mastery of physics at an advanced level.

Method for Assessing Outcome 3 and Criterion for Success: A student who chooses the no-thesis option for completing the M.S. must pass a comprehensive written examination in advanced physics.

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 3 and Criterion for Success (*NOTE: Alternate methods are optional)*: A student who chooses the thesis-option must complete and present a thesis based on his or her research. A faculty advisory committee must approve the thesis and conduct a final oral examination in which the student defends the thesis.

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 3 and Criterion for Success (*NOTE: Alternate methods are optional)*: All students must pass a core of prescribed courses in advanced physics with an average grade of B or better.