

# Institutional Research and Assessment (IRA)

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## *Unit Mission Statement.*

### **Educational Support or Administrative Unit Mission Statement**

The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (IRA) serves as the analytical arm of Old Dominion University's central administration. As a part of its function, the office assists in systematically planning the University's future, managing its resources, and assessing its performance. The IR part of the office (1) provides analytical and technical support to the executive management of the University to support strategic planning and data-based decision-making; (2) coordinates the reporting of enrollment, student characteristics, and other data to state, federal, and private agencies; (3) produces the University Factbook, which is available for use by all members of the university community via the university web site; and (4) creates and maintains databases for reporting academic performance, retention / attrition, and graduation rate data. The Assessment Program focuses on: (1) predicting academic success and providing adequate support services for high risk students; (2) assessing attainment of outcomes of the general education program through assessment in six competency areas (writing proficiency, technical / information literacy, quantitative reasoning, scientific reasoning, oral communication, and critical thinking) (3) assessing learning outcomes of each academic program and other outcomes of each administrative unit with an Assessment Planning and Reporting Process; (4) overall student satisfaction in a variety of academic and support areas; and, (5) alumni satisfaction with the education received at the University. Results are consistently used for program improvement.

## *Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose*

### **Institutional Mission Reference**

IRA assists in developing and assessing all goals and objectives related to the University's Mission and Strategic Plan.

### **Institutional Goal(s) Supported**

IRA assists in developing and assessing all goals and objectives related to the University's Mission and Strategic Plan.

## *Intended Objectives for your unit, Methods for Assessment, and Criteria for Success*

### **Intended Objective 1**

To provide analytical and technical support to the executive management of the University to support data based decision-making and strategic planning by conducting policy studies, completing ad hoc requests for data, and updating the University Factbook.

**Method for Assessing Objective 1 and Criterion for Success:** Enumerate projects completed and policies impacted.

**Alternate Method for Assessing Objective 1 and Criterion for Success (NOTE: Alternate methods are optional):** Enumerate number of ad hoc requests completed.

**Alternate Method for Assessing Objective 1 and Criterion for Success (NOTE: Alternate methods are optional):** Enumerate number of "hits" on the IRA web page.

**Intended Objective 2**

To represent the University to various external constituencies in an accurate, consistent, and timely manner, by submitting state- and federally-mandated reports, completing reputational surveys, and reporting data to accrediting agencies.

**Method for Assessing Objective 2 and Criterion for Success:** Results of state and federal reporting efforts, submission of reputational surveys, and responses to accrediting agencies, including dates of report submission.

**Alternate Method for Assessing Objective 2 and Criterion for Success (NOTE: Alternate methods are optional):** Rate of on-time submission.

**Alternate Method for Assessing Objective 2 and Criterion for Success (NOTE: Alternate methods are optional):** Impact and use of data supplied to external agencies on internal decisions and policies.

**Intended Objective 3**

To assist in improving student learning through analyses and interpretation of academic success, retention/attrition, and graduation rate data.

**Method for Assessing Objective 3 and Criterion for Success:** List reports completed, presentations to university decision makers, committee assignments, and data analyses conducted. Rate tables updated annually and posted on the assessment website.

**Alternate Method for Assessing Objective 3 and Criterion for Success (NOTE: Alternate methods are optional):** TCI Advising Profiles created for students identified as at-risk for academic difficulty by the Transition to College Inventory and referred to academic advisors (both in the colleges and in Advising Services) for appropriate interventions.

**Alternate Method for Assessing Objective 3 and Criterion for Success (NOTE: Alternate methods are optional):** Policy changes and decisions made based on results.

**Intended Objective 4**

To improve student learning and teaching through the assessment of general education (SCHEV Competencies) and students' satisfaction with their education, plus alumni satisfaction with the extent to which an ODU education helped them to succeed in the job market or graduate school.

**Method for Assessing Objective 4 and Criterion for Success:** Submission of Competency Assessment Plans and completion of Coompetency Assessment Reports to be included in ROIE.

**Alternate Method for Assessing Objective 4 and Criterion for Success (NOTE: Alternate methods are optional):** Number of assessment reports and presentations completed and posted to the IRA web site.

**Alternate Method for Assessing Objective 4 and Criterion for Success** (*NOTE: Alternate methods are optional*):  
Policy changes and decisions made based on results.

**Intended Objective 5**

To assist all academic/instructional departments and administrative/support units to assess their impact on student learning and contributions to the strategic plan by collecting and publishing Assessment Plans and Assessment Summary Reports.

**Method for Assessing Objective 5 and Criterion for Success:** Identify proportion of both academic departments and administrative units that completed their Assessment Plans or Assessment Summary Reports.

**Intended Objective 6**

To maintain a high level of customer satisfaction among internal departments and external customers.

**Method for Assessing Objective 6 and Criterion for Success:** Survey included on the IRA web site.