

**DEPARTMENT REPORT
OF
PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT**

Department: Child and Family Education

Program (Degree): Disabilities Intervention Services (DIS)

Type of Degree: X AAS AA AS ATS AIS

Chairperson: Karen Winston Date: 06/07/2000

Person(s) Interviewed: Judy Skyllingstad

- I. **Program Curriculum:** A description of the basis for the program curriculum (i.e., how it is derived and validated). Include accreditation organizations, advisory committees or external groups that influence curriculum. Describe curriculum review activities including the review of course master syllabi.*

DIS faculty researched the literature in 1990-91 to identify and review programs throughout the country which could provide tasks that are appropriate for a two-year degree program in DIS. After an initial list of tasks was developed by the faculty using this process Ms. Anna Lou Pickett, a nationally recognized consultant, was brought to SCC to provide input into the design and development of the DIS curriculum and learning outcomes. A modified DACUM was then conducted during the fall of 1992 with professionals from the field serving on focus groups representing three age levels of training: early intervention, school age, and adult services. The input from the focus groups produced task lists and the identification of entry level skills for a DIS graduate. Tasks were then prioritized and the curriculum revised accordingly. The curriculum revisions were completed in 1993 with implementation in 1994. Twenty-two courses were revised and seven new courses were added as a result of the process described above.

The DIS program meets with their advisory committee twice a year. The advisory committee is made up of Speech Therapists, speech pathologist, special education administrators, adult services administrator, school psychologists, past graduates, a current student, a Montgomery County Administrator for Mental Retardation Developmental Disabilities (MR/DD) and adult care professionals from the public, private schools and residential services.

A new designation of Educational Paraprofessional is being developed by the state. Curricular input from the National Resource Center for Paraprofessionals in Education and related services has been utilized program development.

The Ohio Department of Mental Retardation Developmental Disabilities (MR/DD) reviewed the DIS courses to determine if they could be taken for state certification.

Some individuals who work with adults do not have degrees but need a minimal number of college-level credit hours of training to be certified.

The Council for Exceptional Children and other professional associations provide guidance and materials and ideas for special educators. State licensure standards for para-educators are in the process of development with input from a member of the DIS faculty.

Master syllabi have been reviewed with revisions being made for DIS 205 and DIS 206. DIS 210 curriculum has not changed although the material has been modularized

II. Program Learning Outcomes: A description of what you intend for students to know (cognitive), think/feel (affective), or do (psychomotor), when they have completed your degree program. A suggested manageable number of outcomes should be in the range of five to ten. Describe Program Learning Outcomes review activities.*

The program learning outcomes in the Disabilities Intervention Services Program (DIS) have not been revised during the past year.

An entry-level graduate with an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Disability Intervention Services from Sinclair Community College will be able to:

Learning Outcomes	Related Courses
1. Practice ethical and professional standards of conduct based on an understanding of: (a) similarities/differences between people with and without disabilities; (b) factors that impede typical development; (c) changing service delivery models; (d) knowledge of legal and human rights.	DIS 105, 201, 202
2. Be prepared to: (a) utilize a variety of functional assessment techniques/tools; (b) assist with the implementation of activities related to individualized goals in a variety of curriculum areas; (c) use appropriate instructional materials and resources.	DIS 105, 109, 106, 201, 202, 206, 208, 210
3. Identify and utilize community resources, services, professional organizations and advocacy groups that meet the needs of families, other caregivers, and people with developmental disabilities.	DIS 105, 115
4. Maintain and monitor safe and, healthy environments in a variety of settings.	DIS 105, 115

Learning Outcomes	Related Courses
5. Implement behavior management programs in a variety of settings.	DIS 108
6. Communicate, consult and work effectively with families, colleagues, community members and others involved with people with developmental disabilities.	DIS 105, 108, 201, 202

III. **Assessment Method(s):** A measurable indicator of success in attaining the stated learning outcome(s). The methodology should be both reliable and valid. Please describe in detail.

- a. **Formative Assessment Method(s) and Description:** a measurable indicator of student in-progress success in attaining the stated learning outcome(s).

Each DIS major must complete an Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP). The IPDP is developed by the student, with faculty input, at the beginning of the Spring Quarter of the first year of the program and revised at the end of the Spring Quarter of the first year. The development and revision of the IPDP coincides with the completion of the first DIS practicum. It is then revised again during the second year and reviewed at the conclusion of Spring Quarter, coinciding with the completion of the second DIS practicum. The form contains each of the six DIS program learning outcomes with corresponding goals and objectives. The student develops these goals and objectives with the input of the faculty. The strategy for meeting these goals and objectives is also decided upon, with faculty input, along with the evaluation and dates for review. The student has the opportunity to demonstrate that he/she has met their goals and objectives through class and field demonstrations, written tests and/or products, and/or oral tests or products. The IPDP was first initiated in June of 1995.

All DIS majors are required to assemble a "Student Assessment Portfolio." The student determines the contents of the portfolio based upon the development of the IPDP. The items that may be selected must be consistent with the student's goals. The portfolio must contain several items which includes: field practicum evaluations, observations, student assessments, and activity and behavior plans. Other items are selected mutually by the faculty and student. These optional portfolio items may include videotapes, in-class oral presentations, and other written products. The student is provided with information about the relationship of each DIS course to the program learning outcomes and with recommendations for appropriate portfolio products from the classes.

DIS majors must complete DIS 201, Field Practicum I, which requires 99 clock hours of field-work and a two-hour seminar. Students must achieve a "C" or better to pass. If they do not achieve a "C" or better they must repeat the course.

- b. **Summative Assessment Method(s) and Description:** A measurable indicator of end-of-program success in attaining the stated program learning outcome(s).

Upon completion of the DIS program students must have compiled the necessary Student Assessment Portfolio documentation to demonstrate they have developed the necessary program competencies. The use of the two final field practicum evaluations are a measure of student progress and end-of-program success in attaining the stated program learning outcomes. The two interim field practicum evaluations and faculty and cooperating staff observations is also useful in designing necessary student and/or program interventions before the completion (or failure) of the program.

An employer feedback survey was conducted some time ago and the department is currently considering the development of a new survey. Informal employer feedback is received on a regular basis.

DIS majors must complete DIS 202, Field Practicum, or DIS 270, DIS Internship for working students. The Field Practicum requires 165 clock hours in an approved DIS setting working under the supervision of a professional and supervised by SCC faculty. Students work in such jobs as assistant to a lead teacher, a group home manager, a therapeutic program manager, etc. The Field Practicum also includes a two-hour lecture. Field Practicum evaluations assess the identified tasks related to the program learning outcomes. The cooperating supervisor provides input along with the faculty and student assessments. Students must achieve a "C" or better to pass. If they do not achieve a "C" or better they must repeat the practicum.

Informal feedback is received from students and faculty from other institutions. Individual feedback on a course-by-course basis is gathered by the faculty on an on-going basis through student evaluations.

IV. Results: A description of the actual results of overall student performance gathered from the summative assessment(s). (see III.b.)

The quality of each student's practicum experience varies depending on the placement site. Some students undoubtedly have a richer experience than others depending on the site placement and the available resources.

DIS students generally perform well in the second practicum. Students who do not perform well generally have deficiencies in interpersonal skills.

DIS students who are already successfully employed present a unique situation particularly if they exhibit any deficiencies in their performance. Sometimes the level of professionalism is lower in the agency than that which the DIS program requires.

Informal feedback received from employers is very complimentary of DIS graduate performance.

The performance level of internship students is excellent. Faculty note, however, that the working students miss out on the seminar experience. It is very difficult if not impossible, to require working students to attend a seminar when they work various shifts including first, second, and third.

Portfolio development is used to assist in assessment. At the end of DIS 202 students create a portfolio. Students tend to put tests, papers, essays (written in both DIS and non DIS courses), written evaluations from outside agency supervisor, their philosophy paper, and a resume. Students might also include a videotape experience, take photographs. Portfolios vary in their demonstration of effectiveness.

Few students are part of this program. As of yet surveys of graduates have not been conducted to determine the usefulness of the portfolio tool and the degree effectiveness overall. Organizational skills of the students are an area of weakness. Students tend to pull things together for the portfolio late in their program.

- V. **Analysis/Actions:** From analysis of your summative assessment results, do you plan to or have you made any adjustments to your program learning outcomes, methodologies, curriculum, etc.? If yes, describe. If no, explain.

Structure is beginning to be built into the DIS program in order to assist students in understanding their responsibilities. The Individual professional development plan result ensures a learner-centered focus for each DIS student. The use of the student portfolio places value on a student centered learning environment and empowers students to take more responsibility for their education and the resulting outcomes.

Current areas of investigation include the use of more technology in conjunction with traditional teaching methodologies, and the use of distance learning to facilitate training needs for a population of students who include both degree and non-degree students.

- VI. **General Education:** Are you using any tool(s) to assess any of the three primary general education outcomes * (communication, thinking, values/citizenship)? If so, describe.

General education outcomes (communication, thinking, values/citizenship) are all being addressed, to some degree, through the completion of the Student Assessment Portfolio. The teaching syllabus for each course details the relationship of course assignments to the DIS program outcomes and there is discussion of the impact of general education skills on completing these assignments.

- a. Where within the major do you assess written communication? Describe the assessment method(s) used. Describe assessment results if available.

A common statement is contained on all DIS course syllabi that reinforces departmental standards for written communication. Assignments that might be included encompass aspects of written communication skills through report writing, personal philosophy, in-class examinations, weekly reflection papers, field notation narratives and other written assignments.

- b. Where within the major do you assess oral communication? Describe the assessment method(s) used. Describe assessment results if available.

A standard statement is contained in all DIS courses which defines participation for interpersonal and oral skills. Particular emphasis is placed on the interpersonal communication skills of listening, responding, paraphrasing, and empathizing. Additionally, students are required to complete group work, make oral presentations and conduct one-on-one interviews. Assessment of oral presentations include use of a common tool and feedback is provided by peers and the faculty member.

- c. Where within the major do you assess thinking? Thinking might include inventing new problems, seeing relationships and/or implications, respecting other approaches, demonstrating clarity and/or integrity, or recognizing assumptions. Describe the assessment method(s) used. Describe assessment results if available.

Critical thinking skills are addressed through the use of case studies, critical incident activities, practicum experiences and behavior plans.

- d. Where within the major do you assess values/citizenship/community? These activities might include behaviors, perspective, awareness, responsibility, teamwork, ethical/professional standards, service learning or community participation. Describe the assessment method(s) used. Describe assessment results if available.

e.

Values/citizenship is observed and determined through feedback from the field practicum supervisor as well as through interpersonal experiences in the classroom. Ethical issues are a central aspect of the course work, practicum and weekly reflection papers. A Code of Ethics is introduced and reviewed carefully in both DIS 105 and 115. Professional standards are discussed extensively throughout the curriculum. Some students voluntarily participate in PALS a program through the Montgomery County Disability Center. Due to the attractiveness of the DIS program to persons with disabilities, insights and increased awareness related to disabilities, diversity and tolerance are frequent aspects of in-class discussions.

- * Note: The oral communication checklist and the written communication checklist developed by the General Education Committee were adopted for college-wide use during the 1997-98 academic year by Academic Council. Thinking Guidelines developed by the General Education Committee are being piloted by faculty during the 1998-99 academic year.