Mathematics Program  
School of Arts & Science, University of Alaska Southeast  
2010-11 Annual Report on Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes  
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Goals/Objectives: The goals/objectives and methods of assessment for the Mathematics program in general, and the major and minor specifically are detailed in the revised (March 28, 2011) Mathematics Program Assessment Plan, (which should be) posted on the Provost’s website.

Data Collection and Analysis: Institutional data was again unavailable for this annual report; however, an efficient data collection mechanism has been developed and may find use in later annual assessments.

Findings for this report are based on observations made in the Mathematics Senior Seminar or other relevant courses, on observed course enrollment figures in QMENU, and by way of discussions among program faculty at the three campuses.

Key Findings and Measures (2010-11): Certain program changes/measures or ongoing activities mentioned in the 2009-2010 report have been implemented and yielded results.

- The tracking of mathematics majors as they progress through their respective programs of study is ongoing and is proving useful in some respects. More time will be needed for conclusive findings, if any.
- The MATH 492: Senior Seminar Capstone Project presented this year by Stephen Ellison gave further evidence that the increased structure will improve the quality of capstone presentations and papers.
- The third (and final) class tests of the UAS Mathematics Program prepared text for MATH 054 have been completed. Brian Blitz will use the text in Fall 2011 and it is hoped that all Juneau faculty will find this text acceptable for the course since it will be provided to students at minimal or no cost.
- Virgil Fredenberg conducted trial distance delivery offerings from Juneau of MATH S205 and MATH S206 during the 2011 academic year using the Web and Elluminate. Enrollments were 11 and 9, respectively. The jury is still out on whether this might be considered a good move.
- The Juneau faculty continues to conduct the Annual JDHS/TMHS Calculus Camp each Spring, and faculty at all three campuses provide miscellaneous other outreach activities/sessions throughout the year to local schools.
- The feasibility of Summer courses for MATH 055, MATH 105 and MATH 108 at the Juneau campus continues to be explored. During the Summer of 2010 enrollments were 8, 13 and 13, respectively. Enrollments for Summer 2011, as of May 6, 2011, were 8, 13 and 7, respectively.
- Jasmina Allen completed a directed study (Math 314) so that she will be able to graduate in a timely fashion. The mathematics program periodically provides such opportunities to capable students.
The 2011 Annual Meeting of the Pacific Northwest Section of the Mathematical Association of America will be held on the Juneau Campus June 23 – 25, 2011.

Proposed Program Changes/Measures Based on Assessment Results: No assessment driven changes are proposed for the upcoming academic year; however, some items/actions worth mentioning – since each may contribute directly or indirectly to student learning – include:

- Jill Dumesnil will spearhead a Summer 2011 Math Boot Camp for recent high school graduates currently enrolled in MATH S055. The purpose of this boot camp is to either: a) Get students up to speed for their Fall 2011 MATH S055 course; or b) Provide a suitable mathematics refresher that may enable otherwise capable students to move up to MATH S105 for the Fall 2011 semester.

- Brian Blitz and Chris Hay-Jahans attended a JSD in-service day. The purpose was to help with curriculum alignment to enable a smoother transition for incoming local high school students.

- In collaboration with the PNW Section of the MAA, the UAS Mathematics Program and the UAS School of Education Jill Dumesnl will supervise a continuing education/professional development credit opportunity at the above mentioned PNW MAA meeting. This is intended for interested Alaskan teachers of mathematics/statistics at all levels.

- A new course, STAT S400: Computational Statistics with R, has been added to the UAS catalog. This course will serve as a recommended prerequisite for STAT S401: Regression and Analysis of Variance and a required prerequisite for certain UAF Fisheries program courses. This course will be offered every Spring and is also expected to draw students from local State and Federal agencies.

- Faculty Senate passed a resolution that the default prerequisite grade is D- or better. The math faculty specified prerequisites in the catalog to say C (2.0) or better.

- UA system decided to accept placement test scores only if they have been taken within a year.


- The math workload term: “Other direct or indirect teaching activities” was introduced to the Dean and Chair. Both agreed we could use this at most one credit per semester to get teaching workload credits to 12. (See Math Program’s electronic file cabinet for possible activities).

- Program faculty members are contemplating revisiting the course guidelines for Math 055 through MATH 108. Initial conversations are expected to take place during the Fall 2011 convocation.

- Colleen Ianuzzi was granted sabbatical leave for Fall 2011. The purpose of this is for her to acquire additional coursework to broaden her background and strengthen her qualifications and abilities as a teacher of mathematics and statistics.

- Teresa Holt, at the Sitka Campus, has retired. She taught several courses for the Sitka campus, so the matter of hiring a new full-time faculty member to assist Joe Liddle might be considered. It appears that the number of courses and student credit hours generated through Sitka may justify a new position.

Assessment Plan Changes Based on Assessment Results: No additional changes in the philosophy, purpose and structure of the mathematics program assessment plan have been made or proposed.