

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

Assessment Plan for Physics Major

I. The Assessment Committee

The Assessment Committee shall consist of all full-time members of the Department and shall be chaired by the Department Chair. Before the end of the third week of each Fall and Spring semester the committee shall meet at least once to review the results of data collected from the assessment methods described below and/or to recommend changes in the curriculum and/or in the assessment plan. In its determinations, the Committee will be guided by the Department's Mission and Goals Statement.

II. Methods of Assessment

(a) Student Portfolios

Physics instructors teaching lecture or laboratory sections of any course or laboratory involved in a Physics major program will be responsible for collecting a portfolio of coursework for each Physics major enrolled in those sections. The portfolio will contain representative examples of student performance in all areas related to course or laboratory objectives. Normally, each portfolio will contain examples of the student's quantitative (problem-solving) skills, ability to work independently in a research setting, conceptual understanding, and ability to communicate knowledge gained in the course or lab. In some cases, it may be appropriate for the instructor to include a written evaluation of the student's achievement in the latter two skill areas. The instructors shall transmit the portfolios to the Chair of the Assessment Committee immediately following submission of final grades for the courses or labs referred to above.

(b) Interim Assessment

During the semester following the semester in which a Physics major completes Phys 342 (normally taken in the last sophomore semester), that student's cumulative portfolios will be reviewed by the Assessment Committee as described in I above.

(c) Internal Assessment at exit

During the semester following the graduation of a Physics major from IPFW, that student's cumulative portfolios will be reviewed by the Assessment Committee as described in I above.

(d) External Assessment following exit

A document will be developed to survey the satisfaction of Physics graduates with the preparation they have received from our program. The survey will be sent to the graduates within six months following their admission to graduate school or employment. The Department will maintain a record of acceptances to graduate schools and success rates of our majors in achieving advanced degrees and financial support. These data will be reviewed at each meeting of the Assessment Committee.

III. Time-line for implementation

The necessary instruments will be developed by May 1, 1994 and data collection for Part II, (d) will be initiated at that time. Data collection for Parts II. (b) and (c) will begin with the Fall 1994 semester.

IV. Resources

The assessment Plan will be administered by the Department Chairman as advised by the Assessment Committee.