

### Comprehensive Standard 3.3.1 - Draft Narrative Introduction

*The institution identifies expected outcomes, assesses the extent to which it achieves these outcomes, and provides evidence of improvement based on analysis of the results of each of the following areas: (Institutional Effectiveness)*

*3.3.1.1 Educational programs, to include student learning outcomes*

*3.3.1.2 administrative support services*

*3.3.1.3 academic and student support services*

~~*3.3.1.4 research within its mission, if appropriate*~~

*3.3.1.5 community/public service within its mission, if appropriate*

To ensure that institutional effectiveness efforts at Vernon College focus on the improvement of educational experiences to enhance student learning, VC utilizes a [layered process of assessment \(link to planning process diagram\)](#) to support the institution’s educational programs, administrative services, academic and student support services, and community/public service. Understanding that the Commission uses “assessment” in place of evaluation, and “outcomes” instead of objectives and goals, the following is provided for clarification of terminology.

Vernon College uses **assessment** to guide an evidence centered and research based approach to planning and decision making. Assessment tools include but are not limited to Institutional Effectiveness Plans, Annual Action Plans (Operational Plans), Instructional Program and Discipline Evaluations, compliance and certification requirements, and data resulting from activities detailed in the [Assessment and Report Calendar](#).

**Primary Goals** – The overall medium or long term **goals** of Vernon College that form part of the institution’s strategy in relation to the VC [Mission](#), SACSCOC expectations of effective institutions, and act as a motivating force in the development of long term objectives as well as a measure of performance and achievement.

**Long Term Objectives** – Promote a culture of success to ensure the mission of teaching, learning, and leading results in effective recruitment of students, retention of students, certificate/degree completion, or transfer by students.

**Priority Initiatives** – Broad statements of intent that serve as extensions of the Mission Statement and Primary Goals using long term objectives, assessment data, and internal factors that could affect the College, to address and prioritize college-wide issues.

**Institutional Effectiveness Plan** – Articulates the purpose of the department or program, identifies and assesses expected outcomes, and documents efforts of continuous improvement in support of the Vernon College Mission. ([Institutional Effectiveness Plan](#))

[Final Summaries 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-2017 and Institutional Effectiveness Plan 2017-2018\)](#)

Instructional Program and Discipline Evaluations – A comprehensive review and assessment on a five-year cycle that includes a mapping of course to program outcomes and the assessment procedures and process for determining whether or not the outcomes have been met. ([Link to cycle calendar](#))

Annual Action Plan – Could also be called an “activity or operational” plan for each college component. The Annual Action Plan articulates objectives, responsibilities, need and actions. Identifies, assesses and documents use of results in support of Vernon College Priority Initiatives and in response to Institutional Effectiveness Plan, Program and Discipline Evaluation, and other related assessment results. Annual Action Plans tie the planning process to the budget. ([Annual Action Plan Final Summaries 2014-2014, 2015-2016 and 2016-2017, Annual Action Plan 2017-2018](#))

**Note: Each area must show evidence of improvement, based on the analysis of the assessment results, as opposed to a plan for improvement.**

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