Academic Assessment Plan

Sam M. Walton College of Business

Master of Information Systems (MIS)

AACSB Assurance of Learning Cycle: 2011-2016

Program Goals and Learning Objectives

The Master of Information System (MIS) program provides preparation for the business student at the graduate level to master information systems technology and achieve success in their careers in business/government/and industry. Student entering the MIS program are expected to have a working knowledge of information technology/as well as business. The MIS program of coursework enhances/broadens/extends/and integrates the student's knowledge of information technology and business concepts in order to solve business problems and support decision making.

Note: MIS and Professional MIS share a common set of goals, objectives, and instruments.

COMMUNICATION

Learning Goal: Graduates of the MIS programs at the Sam M. Walton College of Business will be able to communicate effectively in professional situations.

> *Learning Objective 1 (Oral Communication):* Students will be able to deliver effective presentations.

> *Learning Objective 2 (Written Communication):* Students will show proficiency in writing and organizing professional communications.

CRITICAL THINKING/PROBLEM SOLVING

Learning Goal: Graduates of the MIS programs at the Sam M. Walton College of Business will be able to employ ethical problem solving and strategic decision making approaches to information system challenges.

> *Learning Objective 1 (Decision Making):* Students will employ industry-accepted problem solving and decision making skills for IT problems/as well as the ability to evaluate and propose alternative solutions to managers and users.

> *Learning Objective 2 (Ethical Problem Solving):* Students will demonstrate ethical problem solving approaches to IT challenges and opportunities faced by today's businesses in achieving their goals

TECHNICAL COMPETENCE (Discipline Knowledge)

Learning Goal: Graduates of the MIS programs at the Sam M. Walton College of Business will be will be knowledgeable of the application of information technology and business concepts.

> *Learning Objective:* Students will demonstrate the ability to identify, assimilate, synthesize, and analyze the information technology needs, make

recommendations, design, and develop IT transaction systems and decision support systems for the organization.

TEAM WORK

Learning Goal: Graduates of the MIS programs at the Sam M. Walton College of Business will be effective at working in team environment.

> *Learning Objective:* Students will demonstrate effective interpersonal communication skills as a part of a team.

Process for Assessing each Student Learning Outcome

The Sam M. Walton College of Business' specialized accreditation through the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) outlines the standards of Assurance of Learning (AOL) in a 5-year cycle. During each cycle, the curriculum is managed by direct-measure analysis of demonstrated student learning toward goals and objectives defined by the faculty of the program at the start of the cycle. Each objective must be measured *at least* twice during a given cycle. Analysis of assessment data occurs following each measurement. Curricula changes must occur between measures and allow sufficient time for desired effect of curricular change to be detected in following measures.

The following plan of assessing the program's goals and objectives is set to accomplish these requirements within the college's current cycle of 2011-2016, with AACSB Continuous Program Improvement Review occurring in 2017.

Timeline for assessment and analysis

All formal AoL measures are course-embedded in the Management of Information Technology (ISYS 5943). Additional Information Systems department value-added analysis occurs in Seminar in Systems Development (ISYS 5423) and Data Management Systems (ISYS 5833). In these courses students complete case analyses, project, and presentations. The initial AoL measurement activity (ISYS 5943) is in the Spring 2015 with analysis following that measure. A second measure will occur in the Spring of 2016. Value-added analyses conducted by the department for additional curricular insight is conducted in Fall semesters.

Means of assessment and desired level of student achievement

All assessments are conducted using a sample of student artifacts in all sections of courses listed below, based on 20-25% of the previous AY's graduates, or a minimum of 20 artifacts. Standards of Measure are subject to revision during the cycle to provide an opportunity to increase the program's desired standard. In addition to the direct measures of student learning below, all objectives and general curricular concerns are evaluated using in-direct methods via periodic faculty and student focus groups, boards, and committees.

Written Comm: Direct evaluation of student artifacts using ISYS Presentation and Communication Skills rubric by the course instructor.

Standard of Measure: Mean evaluation in all written communication related criterions at or above a "Good" (3 of 4) score.

Oral Comm: Direct evaluation of student presentation using ISYS Presentation and Communication Skills rubric by the course instructor.

Standard of Measure: Mean evaluation in all oral communication related criterions at or above a "Good" (3 of 4) score.

CTPS: Direct evaluation of student artifacts using ISYS Problem Solving/Decision Making and Ethical Problem Solving rubrics by the course instructor.

Standard of Measure: Mean evaluation in all criterions at or above a "Good" (3 of 4) score.

TCDK: Direct evaluation of student artifacts using ISYS Technology Assessment – IT Development rubric by the course instructor.

Standard of Measure: Mean evaluation in all criterions at or above "Good" (3 of 4) score.

Team Work: Direct evaluation of student artifacts using ISYS Team Work rubric by the course instructor.

Standard of Measure: Mean evaluation in all criterions at or above "Good" (3 of 4) score.

Reporting of results

All objective analyses are reported in aggregate (no student or faculty identifiers) following the semester assessed. Analysis of MIS programs is conducted by the Information Systems department and communicated to the Director of Instructional Design and Assurance of Learning. The program director disseminates the reports for discussion with program faculty regarding curricular improvements needed. The Dir., ID&AoL ensures consistency in reporting for specialized accreditation, redistribution to the Dean, and archival purposes.

The Dean of Walton College receives an annual report on the outcomes and curricular improvements resulting from assessment and periodic updates through committees regarding the overall status of the Assurance of Learning process.

At the end of each AACSB Continuous Program Improvement Review cycle, Assurance of Learning activities conducted and curricular management that occurred as a result of data during the cycle are comprehensively reported in the college's report to AACSB prior to peer review.

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