Southwestern Oregon Community College

Success Indicator 8
Employer Perceptions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACHIEVEMENT</th>
<th>Achieved: 4.67 average overall rating = Green</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CORE THEME</td>
<td>Community Engagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBJECTIVE</td>
<td>LA.3: Students demonstrate that they have met institutional learning outcomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDICATOR</td>
<td>LA.3.1: Success Indicator 8 – Employer Perceptions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Measured by the average ratings level on the Employer Satisfaction and Opinion Survey from data reported by employers as part of the internship process.

Indicator Thresholds
- Green: Average rating ≥ 4.25
- Yellow: Average rating 3.5 to 4.24
- Red: Average rating < 3.5

Purpose and Meaning
Measures attainment of the institutional learning outcomes; relies on the feedback of employers to reflect the success in achieving institutional learning outcomes at a level that meets the needs of partner employers.

WHAT WAS ACHIEVED AND WHAT IS PLANNED FOR THE FUTURE

The Employer Perceptions Survey accompanied the Student evaluation for all CWE (Cooperative Work Experience) students. The Spring 2014 survey yielded 35 responses, a 30% increase over the Spring 2013 results. The overall results were very positive and informative. Average Overall student rating was 4.67, a slight increase from 4.62 the previous year. Based on the established thresholds for 2013-14, this success indicator achieved a “Green” level of achievement.

The results indicate good performance on this Success Indicator. We will continue to use this new survey on an annual basis to monitor performance and identify trends in our student’s preparedness for employment that will inform us to respond with curricular and instructional changes when needed.

FACTORS AFFECTING RESULTS/PROGRESS

The pilot this year employing a new survey instrument provided feedback more focused on the employers’ perceptions of our students and their skills and abilities rather than the institution as with the past survey. Continued use of this new survey will provide us feedback allowing us to track trends in our student’s preparedness for employment and will allow us to respond with curricular and instructional changes when needed.

Success Indicator Changes for 2014-15 supporting NWCCU accreditation standards: 1.B.2; 4.A.1; 4.B.1; 5.B.2

In order to consistently track this Success Indicator, the means of measurement should be refined to specifically align with the new Employer Perceptions Survey:

Measured by the average rating level for the overall rating of student employee job performance from data reported by employers as part of the internship process.
Planned Projects

**Strategic Objective – LA3.1:** Students demonstrate that they have met institutional learning outcomes.

**Project – LA3.1.1:** Review progress in student outcomes assessment in academic programs, tying the course outcomes to program outcomes to general education outcomes.

Unit Planning

New Program Review

Budget Impact

**Budget Impact identifies the budget requests needed in the future year(s) to support the planned changes.**

No budget impact is expected for 2015-2016.

Achievement Analysis

In the past, low response rates to the Employer Perceptions Survey failed to produce significant results. In 2012-2013, a new process to solicit employer feedback was introduced: The Employer Perceptions Survey accompanied the Student evaluation for all CWE (Cooperative Work Experience) students. The return rate of the surveys greatly improved. In 2013-2014, the Employer Perceptions Survey was redesigned to solicit more direct information on the employers’ perceptions of students completing internships and cooperative work experience.

The new survey instrument asked employer about their needs and expectations as well as their rating of students in these areas. This instrument allows us to look at the student performance in light of employer needs and expectations. The survey results showed that the ratings of students fell below the 4.25 “green” threshold on only two parameters and fell within the “yellow” range. Of these two parameters, the lowest rating of 3.86 was given for leadership which coincided with the employers’ lowest rating of importance. The other “yellow” rating fell just below the threshold with a 4.20 rating for the use of equipment specific to the job. With this feedback, it indicates that our students generally meet the expectations of employers and we will continue to monitor this SI to ensure continued instructional alignment with employer expectations.

DATA DOCUMENTATION

**Documentation Posted:**


Assessment Software: Success Indicator 8 Report – execute report for specified year

**Data References:**

CWE Jenzabar reports located on the network: itt\institutionalresearch\successindicators\si_8_employerperceptions

ABOUT THE DATA

The report and chart information was prepared and coordinated by Diana Schab, Dean of Career and Technical Education and Robin Bunnell, Institutional Researcher.

DETERMINING MEASUREMENT AND SETTING THRESHOLD LEVELS

The current means of measurement was selected to assure adequate responses to provide insightful feedback. A primary threshold of a 4.25 average rating of satisfaction of student performance was selected to promote the goal of “above average” satisfaction with our students.
The thresholds require yearly review to ensure the indicator continually raised the bar and provides meaningful and applicable data to be used in decision making, specifically for planning, budget development, and curriculum design.

Contributions to the narrative were supplied by Diana Schab, Dean of Career and Technical Education.

**Requirements**  
NWCCU Accreditation; Department Program Review.

For more detailed information, contact the Institutional Research office - ir@socc.edu

Southwestern Oregon Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, religion, national origin, age, disability status, gender identity, or protected veterans in employment, education, or activities as set forth in compliance with federal and state statutes and regulations.