

Yearly Program Assessment Executive Summary: Academic

Nathan C. Anderson, Director of Institutional Assessment
Minot State University
Spring 2025

According to the Minot State University's Assessment Calendar, YPA reports and plans are due to the Director of Institutional Assessment by October 1st. MSU's YPA Dashboard indicated that 79 academic degree and certificate programs (Table 1) were identified for submitting a YPA (2023-2024 report and 2024-2025 plan). Seventy-one percent (56/79) of programs submitted their YPAs as of the preparation of this report. Of the submitted YPAs, 24 programs utilized the MS Word YPA template, 30 programs used Strategic Planning Online (SPOL), and 2 programs used an alternative format. Programs utilized a variety of direct and indirect measures to assess student performance. A few examples of assessments utilized by MiSU academic programs are listed in Table 2. Programs utilized assessment results to inform a variety of decisions related to program improvement. A few examples of decisions that were informed by assessment results are listed in Table 3.

Table 1

YPA Submission Status by Credential Level

Credential Level	YPA Submitted	YPA Not Submitted
Associate	1	0
Bachelor	48	5
Master	4	5
Specialist	0	1
Undergraduate Certificate	0	2
Graduate Certificate	3	10
Total	56	23

Table 2

Examples of Assessments at MiSU

Program Name	Assessment Example
BA Psychology	Student completes the standardized ETS Major Field Test.
BS Entrepreneurship	Student completes the standardized Peregrine Core Exam.
BA Art	Student writes a five-paragraph persuasive essay. Faculty scores the essay using a 4-point rubric.
BS Communication Sciences and Disorders	Student writes a reflective essay on the integration of literacy activities. Faculty scores the essay using a 4-point rubric.

BS Computer Science	Student completes an assignment requiring use of datatypes, operators, and common language features in a high-level language. Faculty scores assignment using a 5-point rubric.
BS Nursing	Student completes the ATI LLCRN Comprehensive Predictor Assessment.

Table 3

Examples of Decisions Informed by Assessment Results at MiSU 2023-2024

Program Name	Decision Example
BA Professional Communications	SLO 1.2: One key reason for this shortfall was the use of a key assignment with nearly 20% of students not returning their completed work. Going forward, we will look at assigning materials for SLO attainment that is less sensitive to such a factor.
BS Bioinformatics and Computational Biology	SLO 1.3: We would like to see this improved throughout the next iterations of the course, particularly because the Bioinformatics majors need an understanding of gene expression for when they get to Bioinformatics (Biol 402) later on in their academic careers. The gene expression unit should be covered with more time allotted to ensure students are understanding the material and the unit is not being rushed through.
BS Nursing	SLO 2: Faculty will review information technology descriptions within nursing courses to improve student comprehension. Tech survey will be given at mid-term in the students' final semester. Informatics content added to the last semester of the nursing program.