### Expected Outcomes: Mastery of Building Science

Students shall show evidence of mastery of basic Building Science topics such as quantity surveying, estimating and cost control, scheduling, information technology applications, and project administration.

#### Assessment methods

**Method:** Grades in core and foundation classes

**Grade Point Average in core and foundation MBC classes**

**Findings:**

The average GPA for the MBC core and foundation classes were 3.68 and 3.75 respectively. The high GPA indicates that students were successfully completing the course work. Although it is slightly lower than the previous year's average (3.78) but overall the student performed well in all classes and earned either “A” or “B” grades.

**How did you use findings for improvement?**

Feedback from students was used to improve the core and foundation classes. A full fledged curriculum review is almost complete.

**Additional comments:**

None

### Expected Outcomes: Specialization

Students shall show evidence of specialization to bring to the construction industry, or to construction education. They shall show evidence of skills to research and systematically finding out solutions of problems important for the construction industry while displaying the highest standards of ethical conduct.

#### Assessment methods

**Method:** Graduate Capstone Class

**Grade Point average in Capstone Class**

**Findings:**

Students completed the capstone class with an average GPA of 3.58. This is slightly lower than the last year's average (3.75). However, the difference in GPA is within 5% and does not indicate any alarming situation.

**How did you use findings for improvement?**

Based on student feedback the class is continuously being updated. An industry-focused capstone option will be offered from next year.

**Additional comments:**

None
Expected Outcomes: International Exposure

Expose students to construction technology and cultural aspects of construction in other parts of the world. Encourage students to develop a world view of geo-political and economic issues.

Assessment methods

Method: Participation in Guest Lectures and Seminars

Students got opportunities to attend guest lectures and seminars delivered by executives of construction companies working overseas. They also had opportunities to participate in Auburn University sponsored ‘Study Abroad’ programs in Asia, Europe and Central America.

Findings:

Students attended number of guest lectures on topics related with international construction in Asia and Europe. For study abroad program, our target level was to get 20% of the students. One out of six (16%) graduate student participated in a 6-week NSF sponsored study abroad program in India.

How did you use findings for improvement?

We continue to encourage students to participate in international construction lectures and the study abroad programs.

Additional comments:

None

Expected Outcomes: Excellence in Communication Skills

Students shall show evidence of excellence in digital, verbal, and written communication.

Assessment methods

Method: Term papers, Individual and group presentations

In all core courses, students are required to write at least one term paper on a selected topic. Students are also required to present their projects using various forms of digital and oral communication methods.

Findings:

Based on the anecdotal evidence provided by the MBC faculty, during the course of one year students significantly improved their written, verbal and digital communication skills.

How did you use findings for improvement?

Instructors provided continuous feedback to the students on their term papers and presentations. Students are also offered several resources (books/videos etc.) to improve their communication skills.

Additional comments:

None

Method: Capstone report and presentation

Each student has to write a capstone project report and present it in his/her final semester to a jury of 3 or more professors. Students are also encouraged to write papers for conferences or journals.
based on the findings of their capstone research.

Findings:

Students completed the capstone class with an average GPA of 3.58. Three students wrote conference papers based on the outcome of their research. The research paper co-authored by a graduate students received the Best Paper Award in the 49th Annual ASC Conference held in Birmingham, England in April 2012.

How did you use findings for improvement?

The ‘Capstone writing and presentation’ topic was included in the research methods class. Students are also taught on how to write publishable scholarly articles.

Additional comments:

None

Expected Outcomes: Job Readiness

The program graduates shall contribute to construction company operational objectives immediately upon graduation and quickly assume leadership roles within the company and industry.

Assessment methods

Method: Interaction with Industry Professionals

Students got opportunities to interact with industry professionals in several classes to learn about day-to-day operations of construction companies.

Findings:

Students learned about necessary skill sets needed for different job positions in construction companies.

How did you use findings for improvement?

Based on the feedback of the students and industry professionals, the curriculum is thoroughly revised. The revised curriculum will now be sent to the graduate council for approval.

Additional comments:

None

Method: Exit Interviews with School Head

Personal Interviews are conducted by the school head with each graduating student to discuss curriculum issues and program quality issues.

Findings:

Personal Interviews are conducted by the school head with each graduating student to discuss curriculum issues and program quality issues.

How did you use findings for improvement?

Several courses have been tweaked to incorporate suggestions from students. Curriculum review is almost complete.

Additional comments:
Method: Graduate Employment Survey

Student/alumni survey to determine employment status of graduating students.

Findings:

Student/alumni survey to determine employment status of graduating students.

How did you use findings for improvement?

The employment rate for the graduating class was 90%, higher than last year (80%).

Additional comments:

None