

# Program-Level Assessment Curriculum Mapping

## Requirements

Curriculum mapping can be a valuable part of the academic assessment cycle; however, because of the time pressures involved in getting the program-level assessment process up and running at John Carroll University, curriculum mapping was not mandated for existing programs when the assessment cycle began. The Director of Academic Assessment and the Assessment Committee will work with existing programs to create curriculum maps as part of their on-going assessment cycle. New Programs are required to create a curriculum maps and will periodically update them as part of their on-going assessment cycle.

## Making a Curriculum Map

A curriculum map is a graphical display that indicates how learning goals are addressed in the various courses and other requirements that make up a program's curriculum. In simplest terms, a curriculum map takes the form of the grid. A list of courses, typically arranged in the order students move through them, serves as either the top cell in each column or the first cell in each row. The other heading is the program's learning goals. The remaining cells in the table indicate in which courses each learning goal is addressed. Most sources suggest marking the cells I (for introduced), R (for reinforced), or M (for mastery). Other sources encourage programs to also mark the assessment points for each goal. Some programs find it helpful to use numbers to indicate the degree of emphasis goals receive in each course. Programs are encouraged to experiment with finding a format that makes sense for them.

## The Benefits of Curriculum Mapping

Curriculum mapping can be useful because it can document what is taught and when, reveal gaps in the curriculum, and strengthen the design of the assessment plan. The process can also improve communication among faculty, improve program coherence, increase the likelihood that students achieve program-level outcomes, and encourage reflective practice.

This site may also be helpful:

<http://manoa.hawaii.edu/assessment/howto/mapping.htm>

The Director of Academic Assessment is happy to help any department or program with the process of curriculum mapping with an individualized workshop.