

CAPS ASSESSMENT REPORTING FOR UCORE FAQs for Spring 2024

Why am I being asked to report on assessment for a CAPS course for UCORE? Why is this required every semester?

UCORE is gathering assessment data to help us understand how well students are achieving the CAPS designator student learning outcomes and associated WSU Undergraduate Learning Goals for UCORE general education assessment. Assessment data are needed annually for UCORE's evaluation of how the university's general education curriculum is working WSU-wide, with assessment particularly needed from courses near the end of the curriculum. UCORE assessment also helps meet requirements for WSU's regional accreditation.

Why is my report due by May 15?

The UCORE Committee is asking for the CAPS assessment reports for Spring 2024 by May 2024. You can submit your report any time between the end of the semester and May 15th. It may be easiest to complete your report as you finish calculating grades for the course.

How do I access the report form?

Instructors will receive an email from ucore.wsu@wsu.edu with a link to submit their CAPS assessment report via Qualtrics in late April 2024.

What information is requested for the CAPS assessment report?

The report form asks instructors to indicate the percentage of students that *do not meet*, *partially meet*, *meet*, and *exceed* expectations on the [CAPS designator learning outcomes \(and associated WSU Learning Goals\)](#). Instructors are also asked how the UCORE curriculum could have better prepared students for CAPS designator learning outcomes. You can use the provided [Planning Sheet \(docx\)](#) to preview the questions and develop your report prior to submission.

The report asks for estimates of how students performed on CAPS designator learning outcomes (and associated WSU Undergraduate Learning Goals). Do I need to re-assess student work to get this information?

No, you should not need to re-assess student work. When your course was submitted for CAPS designation or renewal, the application indicated how the course and assignments align with CAPS designator learning outcomes (and associated WSU Undergraduate Learning Goals). You can use students' performance on these aligned course outcomes to approximate the percentage of students that meet expectations at the graduating undergraduate level.

What does it mean for students to be “meeting expectations at the graduating undergraduate level”? Should this be based on students' final course grades?

The CAPS assessment report provides descriptors for “Meets Expectations at the graduating undergraduate level” for each of the included CAPS designator learning outcomes (and associated WSU Learning Goals). Instructors should use their expertise to provide evaluation as appropriate to their course and assignments. While final course grades may be considered as part of your assessment of student achievement, final course grades alone are not fine-tuned enough to give information about specific strengths or weaknesses in student achievement on specific learning outcomes (i.e., students with the same final course grade could vary considerably in their abilities on individual learning outcomes.)

How was the CAPS assessment report developed?

The UCORE Director, Committee, and Assessment Subcommittee worked with the Office of Assessment for Curricular Effectiveness to develop and refine an assessment process intended to fit a variety of CAPS course contexts. UCORE seeks to collect useful information on student learning, in a manageable format, minimizing the burden on instructors.

Does assessment in a CAPS also contribute data toward program assessment for majors?

Typically assessment in a CAPS course for majors can contribute toward program-level assessment of student learning for majors. We encourage you to share CAPS assessment data with your department assessment team, as appropriate. In August, we will provide you with a pdf copy of the report you submitted.

Who can I contact with questions about completing the report?

If you have questions or encounter any technical difficulties with the Qualtrics form, contact ucore.wsu@wsu.edu.