

GLOSSARY
Alignment Planning Process
2007-2010

Assessment Methods

Assessment methods identify the methodology that will be used to determine the extent to which the desired outcomes have been achieved. Assessment methods should explain how actual outcomes will be compared to the desired outcomes identified for the PFA. Please use methods and measures that are verifiable where possible or descriptive standards where applicable. Assessment methods should include measures that focus on impacts as well as the processes that created them.

Desired Outcomes

Desired outcomes are the expected results of successfully implemented Priorities for Action (PFA). The primary purpose of establishing desired outcomes is to assess whether the PFA has been achieved. Great care should be taken in the development of desired outcomes as these measures serve as indicators of progress and success. The desired outcome should be stated as a measurable objective - one that has a very specific outcome or quality in mind and states it in specific qualitative or quantitative terms. The development of desired outcomes for each year of the planning period is strongly recommended to simplify monitoring and reporting annual progress.

Mission Statement

The mission statement describes how the unit or department supports the NKU Mission. Academic unit mission statements should include majors, degrees, and certificate programs provided. All units should include services offered, including those provided directly to students. If the unit does not provide direct learning or direct support services to students, indicate how the unit indirectly supports student learning or support, as well as any other ways it supports the NKU mission.

Priorities for Action (PFA)

Priorities for Action (PFA) are the activities to be implemented over the planning period to accomplish the priorities articulated in *The Talent Imperative!* In contrast to the broader concept of a “goal,” the PFA is a specific action or set of related actions targeted to accomplish a specified priority. Examples of PFA include: initiatives to be undertaken, shifts in service or program emphases, activities or programs to be discontinued, or new programs or services to be implemented over the planning period.

Funds -- Recurring

Recurring funds make up what is commonly referred to as the base budget (or continuation budget). Common uses of these funds include personnel and operating expenses.

Funds -- Nonrecurring

Nonrecurring funds are one-time allocations normally reserved for the purchase of office furnishings and equipment, lab equipment, instructional equipment, and other capital outlays. Since these funds are nonrecurring, they will not be carried forward into subsequent planning periods. Unit plans that require

significant outlays of nonrecurring funds for these purposes should reflect associated annual recurring maintenance contracts in the recurring funds section of the worksheet. (Note: Capital improvements, such as renovations and new construction, are not to be included in unit plans at this time.)

WEAVEonline

WEAVEonline is a new software package designed to integrate planning and assessment efforts for the university. Once this software is up and running, units will be able to cut and paste from the Appendix C template directly into WEAVEonline. Training and assistance will be available to assist units in learning the software. Please watch the SACS reaffirmation website for future announcements.

Source: Office of the Vice President for Planning, Policy & Budget