Finance, MS

University of San Diego®

Assessment Overview & Results Summary

College/School: School of Business

Measures Used: Rubrics, CPA exam, surveys, presentations/writing samples, course embedded assessments, and standardized assessments.

Process for Interpretation of Evidence: The Master of Science in Finance (MSF) program assesses six learning outcomes on a 2.5-year cycle. The program uses various methods of assessment in appropriate program courses to evaluate the quality of student work in the areas of advanced finance knowledge, interpersonal skills in diverse environments, critical analysis skills, applied finance skills, oral and written business communication skills, and standards of ethical behavior. Results are reviewed by the faculty teaching the course and the program academic director/chair.

How Findings are Used:
- ✓ Changes to curriculum/pedagogy
- ✓ Changes to assessment methods
- ✓ Increased faculty professional development

Results Summary and Continuous Improvement Actions for AY 2020-2021: In Spring 2021, MS in Finance students were assessed in MFIN 518 (Advanced Seminar in Asset Pricing). In this course, students applied financial skills by having them write code in a program and perform a significant data manipulation exercise by solving a set of financial problems. The benchmark/criterion for this assessment was that 70% of students or more score at a Level 3 or above. The results were:

Excellent: 16 students - 53%
Good: 7 students - 23%
Fair: 4 students - 13%
Poor: 3 students - 10%
Unacceptable: 0 students - 0%

Thus, 90% of students scored at a Level 3 or above. Before taking MFIN 518, the MSF students already had some exposure to Python programming in MFIN 516. We also offered a Python programming workshop to prepare students for these courses in late January 2021. It seems the workshop helped students to do better in these courses because the performance has significantly improved. Students are more motivated to learn Python than Stata as they feel Python programming is an important skillset that is highly valued in the financial industry.