

Standard 1

Alignment with Institutional Mission and Goals

Who must respond to this standard?

	1.A Mission	1.B Planning
<i>Department</i>	X	X
<i>Program</i>	X	X
<i>Grad Program</i>	X	X

Step I – Collect Data

Locate a current version of the program’s mission and goals (and provide in Appendix) . A copy of the current draft of the institutional mission and goals is located in this section of the manual (page 2.3).

Locate (and provide in Appendix) a current description of the program’s planning and evaluation processes: how does the program ask questions, seek answers, analyze itself, revise goals, review policies and procedures, and adjust resource allocations?

Step II – Analyze Data

1. Compare the program’s mission and goals to the institutional mission and goals.

Identify:

- How the program’s mission is aligned to the institutional mission
- How the program’s goals are aligned to the institutional goals

2. Evaluate how well, and in what ways, the program is accomplishing program and institutional goals.

Step III – Set Goals

Use the **Standard 1 Goals Template** (page 2.4) to record your goals and plan for implementation. Consider the following questions:

- 1.A** What do we want to do to bring our mission more closely in line with the University’s mission?
- 1.B** What do we want to do to bring our planning and evaluation practices more closely in line with the University’s practices?

Step IV – Draft Report

Write a brief narrative report summarizing your findings and outlining your goals for improvement. Use the following format for your report:

- 1.A** Provide a copy of the departmental or program mission and goals along with a brief statement explaining:
 - a. How the institutional and departmental missions and goals are aligned
 - b. Where the department publishes its mission
 - c. How the mission drives all educational activities

- 1.B** Provide evidence and a brief description of:
 - a. How the department engages in systematic planning for, and evaluation of, its activities, including teaching, research and public service
 - b. How the department aligns planning and evaluation processes to institutional processes

Step V – (Post Self-Study) Implement Plan and Institute Ongoing Evaluation: How are we doing?

Initiate plan and monitor progress.

Southern Oregon University Mission

Southern Oregon University is a contemporary public liberal arts and sciences university. It provides access to opportunities for personal, intellectual, and professional growth through quality education and scholarship. The University is a vital partner in the healthy development of its region and state in association with civic, national, and international engagements. It is a center of excellence in the Fine and Performing Arts.

Southern Oregon University Goals – Horizon of 2007 (Draft)

University Distinctiveness

- Develop our unique niche in practical liberal learning and its scholarship in the arts, sciences, and professions.
- Grow with our rising reputation as a leading public liberal arts and sciences university and expand our offerings outside of Ashland.
- Forge partnerships that best achieve our vision and seize opportunities that benefit the region and state.
- Encourage more visible engagements with compelling civic and economic challenges to enhance learning, scholarship, and service.
- Improve the flow and flare of communications about the University's distinctiveness, special strengths, and diverse stakeholders.

Student Learning

- Synthesize liberal learning, professional practice, and civic responsibility in the classroom and other inclusive learning communities.
- Focus graduate education on contemporary societal needs and regional strengths for liberal learning, practice, and scholarship.
- Align continuing professional education and lifelong learning programs to suit learners' needs and achieve cost-effective practices.
- Advance clear ideals regarding the value of diversity in twenty-first-century liberal education, employability, and a just society

Organizational Vitality

- Align priorities, expectations, and capacities with the forward direction of our university and its greatest strengths and promise.
- Improve decision making by better linking institutional research, planning, and budgeting at all levels.
- Diversify funding sources and create more organizational flexibility to accelerate momentum toward our vision.
- Create opportunities for faculty and staff to achieve expectations and rewards as they contribute to SOU's mission and distinctiveness.
- Strengthen our human, physical, and technological infrastructure, focusing on Ashland and Medford.
- Build the University's capacity for greater autonomy, consistent with evolving OUS Board policy and strategic planning.
- Enhance internal communications to nurture an informed, engaged, stimulated, and cohesive University community

Standard 1 Goals Template

Standard 1.A: Mission & Goals			
Mission Alignment – Exit Outcome Alignment – Public Service			
Goal #	Goal	Assessment Method	Term Due
Standard 1.B: Planning & Effectiveness			
Evaluation Processes – Planning Practices			
Goal #	Goal	Assessment Method	Term Due