Department of Information Technology

Office or Department of Academic Affairs

Administrative Unit Assessment Report Information

Year Reporting: FY21 (July 2020 – June 2021)

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Prepared by: johnathan.yerby@mga.edu

Email address of person responsible for this report: Johnathan Yerby, johnathan.yerby@mga.edu

Department Mission and Goals

The mission and goals of the department should be consistent over a 5 year period, although some institutional changes may necessitate and prompt a change in mission or goals for specific departments. In this section, you will report the mission statement for your department as well as the long term goals (5 year range) for the department.

6. What is the mission statement for this department/area? Your mission should explain why the department/area exists and who it serves.	Our Department of Information Technology has programs that prepare students to solve problems and apply new technologies within an increasingly interconnected and changing global environment. They emphasize career success through lifelong learning and professional development at all levels of the curriculum.

7. What are the goals for this department? These should be the "big things" the department/area intends to accomplish within 5 years.	Continue to grow the national reputation of the program and institution. Continue earning designation as an ABET accredited program and National Security Agency (NSA) Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense. Have a large Master of Science in IT degree program. Have a Doctoral program in Information Technology with a high demand.

Objectives

Each year, every department should identify objectives the department hopes to accomplish in the next year. These should align with departmental goals and the MGA strategic plan. In the next section you will be reporting on the objectives you set and whether or not you achieved them in FY21. Later in the document you will report on objectives you hope to accomplish in the coming fiscal year, FY22.

Objective 1

8. Objective 1: What was this department's first objective for this fiscal year? Objectives should be specific, measurable, and achievable within one year.	Have enrollment goal of 800 to 1100 students across the department.
9. Objective 1: Detail how your department measured this objective? (Survey, budget number, number of participants, jobs completed, measurable time and/or effort)	This objective is measured through analyzing the enrollment data reports.
10. Objective 1: What was your target outcome for this objective? (1.e. 80% participation, 5% enrollment growth, 7% change in engagement)	Enrollment growth of 3%.
11. Objective 1: At what level did the department/area achieve on this objective? (This should be a number, i.e. 82%, 6%, 345 attendees, 75% engagement)	100% - the enrollment grew
12. Objective 1: Did your department meet this objective?	The department exceeded this objective.
13. Objective 1: What did your department learn from working toward this objective? What changes will you make based on this effort next year?	Our program continues to be in very high demand. We will continue utilizing the same strategies and hope to add quality faculty to sustain the growth. Stay engaged with students, find low cost ways to recruit and advertise the program, use professional advisors and faculty mentors. Have quality faculty capable of teaching competitive technical topics that learners are seeking. We continued to make gains in articulation agreements and worked with admissions for specific services for articulation schools. We partnered with Houston County BoE starting Fall 2021 to offer new courses at Project Synergy in Warner Robins.

Objective 2

14. Objective 2: What was this department's second objective for this fiscal year? Objectives should be specific, measurable, and achievable within one year.	Revise curriculum to meet the needs of students and industry.
15. Objective 2: Detail how your department measured this objective? (Survey, budget number, number of participants, jobs completed, measurable time and/or effort)	The Department's curriculum committee and full faculty met to review the curriculum throughout the year. The department formed several small workgroups to address specific courses to ensure that they are meeting the needs. The department engaged in outside meetings with industry to ensure that we are meeting the needs.
16. Objective 2: What was your target outcome for this objective? (1.e. 80% participation, 5% enrollment growth, 7% change in engagement)	Review concentrations and new courses. Make changes to improve the program
17. Objective 2: At what level did the department/area achieve on this objective? (This should be a number, i.e. 82%, 6%, 345 attendees, 75% engagement)	100% - more than 10 courses were revised
18. Objective 2: Did your department meet this objective?	The department met this objective.
19. Objective 2: What did your department learn from working toward this objective? What changes will you make based on this effort next year?	We will continue examining curriculum, but the department made some meaningful improvements in multiple courses and concentrations. We are moving away from a concentration in critical infrastructure, but replacing it with a program in homeland security in conjunction with Criminal Justice. We added a FinTech program. We added data analytics.

Objective 3

20. Objective 3: What was this department's third objective for this fiscal year? Objectives should be specific, measurable, and achievable within one year.	Engage in scholarship that supports the mission of the department.
21. Objective 3: Detail how your department measured this objective? (Survey, budget number, number of participants, jobs completed, measurable time and/or effort)	Have at least six of the full-time faculty participate in scholarly activities resulting in a publication and/or presentation.
22. Objective 3: What was your target outcome for this objective? (1.e. 80% participation, 5% enrollment growth, 7% change in engagement)	50% of the FT faculty publishing.
23. Objective 3: At what level did the department/area achieve on this objective? (This should be a number, i.e. 82%, 6%, 345 attendees, 75% engagement)	133% Eight faculty and two administrators published 14 articles in 2020.
24. Objective 3: Did your department meet this objective?	The department met this objective.
25. Objective 3: What did your department learn from working toward this objective? What changes will you make based on this effort next year?	Our Department consistently produces high quality scholarship. We will plan to continue encouraging and supporting high quality scholarship.

Objective 4

26. Objective 4: What was this department's fourth objective for this fiscal year? Objectives should be specific, measurable, and achievable within one year.	Engage the community and institution in service.
27. Objective 4: Detail how your department measured this objective? (Survey, budget number, number of participants, jobs completed, measurable time and/or effort)	The frequency and number of service opportunities.
28. Objective 4: What was your target outcome for this objective? (1.e. 80% participation, 5% enrollment growth, 7% change in engagement)	Offer at least five opportunities to the community and serve on institution committees and task force assignments.
29. Objective 4: At what level did the department/area achieve on this objective? (This should be a number, i.e. 82%, 6%, 345 attendees, 75% engagement)	100% Yes. We pivoted to online activities or service activities to support the community that allowed us to continue following safety guidelines.
30. Objective 4: Did your department meet this objective?	The department met this objective.
31. Objective 4: What did your department learn from working toward this objective? What changes will you make based on this effort next year?	The department learned that we are a great resource to the community and institution. We will use a calendar system to plan for capacity to serve. Our demand outpaces our resources. We pick the most impactful opportunities. In 2020, we changed from our previously planned Academic Cybersecurity Seminar to an online event based on Women in IT event.

Future Plans

32. Please identify and detail three to four measurable objectives for the next fiscal year. In listing the objectives, please use the format shown in these examples.1) The Department of X will improve services levels by 5% as measured by our satisfaction survey. 2) The department of X will provide training in ABC for at least 73 MGA faculty and staff.	The Department will publish at least 10 scholarly articles in the next year. The Department will revise curriculum to ensure efficiency and demand are being met. The Department will strive to have total enrollment 900-1100 students.

Open Box for Assessment Comments

33. Based on this assessment, please share your thoughts on the current status and future direction of this department or area. Use this space to summarize overall use of assessment results for continuous improvement and open text box for assessment comments:	The department is poised for success. Our major challenge is needing qualified faculty to teach the growing number of courses in highly technical fields.
37. If the COVID-19 pandemic impacted this assessment cycle, please provide specific details below.	Yes, some of our in-person events such as the Academic Cybersecurity Seminar were moved to an online format. The ACS was a Women in IT event where we were able to have great speakers across the nation address attendees also geographically dispersed. Our cybersecurity competition was moved completely online, but we expanded it to other schools. We did not do as much K-12 outreach, but we still have faculty and administrators that aid public school systems in Houston and Macon-Bibb.

MGA's Strategic Plan

34. Based on your goals and objectives listed above please indicate their connection with MGA's Strategic Plan (https://www.mga.edu/about/docs/Strategic_Plan_Overall_DB.pdf) by checking all associated and relevant Imperatives / Strategies from the list below. (Check all the apply)	Grow Enrollment with Purpose 1. Expand and enrich the face to face student experience, Grow Enrollment with Purpose 2. Expand and enrich online instruction into new markets, Own Student Success 3. Develop academic pipelines and expand degrees, Own Student Success 4. Expand student engagement and experiential learning, Build Shared Culture 5. Attract talent and enhance employee development and recognition, Build Shared Culture 6. Sustain financial health through resourceful fiscal management, Build Shared Culture 7. Cultivate engagement with its local communities
35. Please indicate which of the following actions you have taken as a result of the 2020/2021 Assessment Cycle (Note: These actions are documented in reports, memos, emails, meeting minutes, or other directives within the reporting area) (Check all the apply)	Disseminating/Discussing Assessment Results/Feedback to Appropriate Members of the Campus Community, Disseminating/Discussing Assessment Results/Feedback to Appropriate External Stakeholders, Process Changes: Improve, Expand, Refine, Enhance, Discontinue, etc. Operational Processes, Request for Additional Financial or Human Resources, Customer Service Changes: Communication, Services, etc., Making Improvements to Teaching Approach, Course Design, Curriculum, Scheduling, other

Other

36. Please indicate (if appropriate) any local, state, or national initiatives (academic or otherwise) that are influential in the operations, or goals, and objectives of your unit. (Complete College Georgia, USG High Impact Practice Initiative, LEAP, USG Momentum Year, Low-Cost No-Cost Books, etc)	The department strives to adhere to Complete College Georgia and Momentum year approaches with advising and semester course development. Some classes implement LEAP approaches. All courses include a growth mindset statement, and many include related activities. We aim for low-cost, no-cost text where there are great resources available. Multiple courses integrate HIPs.
38. Mindset Update (Academic Deans ONLY) Please provide an update on the implementation of your school based mindset plan/strategy. Include any adjustments to metrics for the AY20/21 as well as outcomes associated with your appraisal of your schools activities.	