Summary of Institutional Student Learning Outcomes Assessment 2008-2009

During 2008-2009, the oral communication skills core competency was assessed among Walsh College undergraduate and graduate students.

Ten randomly selected students in 21 classes across degree programs were evaluated by their instructors using course embedded assignments from the course syllabus. Instructors used the National Communication Association’s Competent Speaker Speech Evaluation Form to evaluate student performance in eight distinct categories on a scale of Excellent, Satisfactory, or Unsatisfactory.

The resulting data show that 93% of Walsh undergraduate students and 91% of Walsh graduate students were assessed as “excelling or performing satisfactorily” in oral communication.

Undergraduate students evaluated themselves more favorably than did graduate students on winter and spring 2009 instructor/course evaluation forms and graduating student surveys. Questions pertaining to oral communication were added to these evaluation forms to capture student perceptions in this competency.

Similar questions were added to the alumni survey in the spring 2009 term. Seventy-two percent of surveyed alumni reported that Walsh enhanced their oral communication skills.

A Faculty Committee created to review and act on the results began to meet in winter 2010 to determine improvement actions.

Realized outcomes for the oral communication competency will be reported in fall 2010 and continue through fall 2011.

Student Learning outcomes assessment is a cyclical process. New initiatives to improve student skills in oral communication will be implemented during the 2010-2011 academic year. The 2012-2013 academic year will be dedicated to evaluating student skills in oral communication and to collect data.