ASSESSMENT PLAN

Certificate of Graduate Study in Applied Statistics

Department of Statistics
College of Science and Mathematics
University of South Carolina
February, 2000

I. PROGRAM PURPOSES
The Certificate of Graduate Study in Applied Statistics is a six-course (18 credit hour) "minor" in graduate level applied statistics, geared towards (1) persons who are currently working in a business, government, or industrial setting, or (2) persons working towards doctoral degrees in the sciences. The focus is on applications of statistics in science and/or industry.

II INTENDED LEARNING OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES
The C.G.S.-A.S. recipient should be able to:
1. General methods: apply and interpret general statistical methods.
3. Specialized Methods in Field: apply and interpret specialized advanced statistical methods specific to their field of science or professional applications.
4. Basic computation: use existing statistical software and programming languages to solve standard problems.

III PROCEDURES, MEASURES, AND CRITERIA
1. General Methods: candidates are required to pass courses STAT 704 and 705 or the equivalent.
2. Methods in Design of Experiments: candidates are required to pass courses STAT 506 or 706 or the equivalent.
3. Specialized Methods in Field: candidates are required to pass at least three other approved courses (nine semester hours) in graduate level statistical methods relevant to their field of study or professional application.
4. Basic Computation: candidates are required to pass several courses which feature basic computing skills (e.g. STAT 704, 705 and methods-oriented electives).

IV IMPLEMENTATION
The Department of Statistics will conduct an Exit Survey with each graduating C.G.S.-A.S. student, in which the student will be asked to assess his/her own abilities on each of the categories in section II above, as well as comment on the USC graduate program's strengths and weaknesses in general. The results are used to help make improvements in the program. Also, in January of each year, the Graduate Director will prepare a summary report of assessment data, including
1. Scholastic information for all current candidates
2. Scholastic information for all graduates the previous year

V IMPLEMENTATION
Evaluation results from the Implementation Phase of this Assessment Plan will be featured in the Department's Annual Report, the Strategic Plan (including any updates), the Department's newsletters, and at other times deemed appropriate by the Department Chair or other University officials.

VI FEEDBACK CHANNELS
Assessment results and summaries will be circulated to program faculty at the annual Department retreat and at other times as deemed necessary by the Department Chair.

VII USE OF RESULTS
Use of results for program modification and the subsequent impact of any changes made will be reviewed yearly by the relevant faculty, and included in the Department's Annual Report and Strategic Plan (including any updates).