



# 2017 -2018 Student Affairs Assessment Plan

Department: KU Memorial Union

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## **The Big Event Student Leaders Learning Outcomes Assessment**

### **Division Mission**

To engage the KU community in services and programs that make learning possible.

### **Department Mission**

The Unions serve as the campus community center providing critical retail services and co-curricular learning opportunities, vibrant programs, and events that contribute to KU traditions. Ultimately, the Unions efforts contribute to student learning, recruitment, and retention in a context of community exchange.

### **Department Student Learning Outcomes**

#### **Leadership Development:**

Students who provide, utilize or interact with services and programs provided by KU Memorial Union will obtain the skills, knowledge & behaviors necessary to develop teams that fulfill the mission and goals of the organization.

#### **Event Management**

Students who provide, utilize or interact with services and programs provided by KU Memorial Union will be able to develop event management skills (such as time management, budgeting, and risk management strategies) that can be applied at KU and beyond.

#### **Intrapersonal Development:**

Students who provide, utilize or interact with services and programs provided by KU Memorial Union will obtain skills, knowledge, & behaviors necessary to develop a realistic self-appraisal & positive sense of self.

#### **Interpersonal Development:**

Students who provide, utilize or interact with services and programs provided by KU Memorial Union will obtain skills, knowledge, & behaviors necessary to foster effective relationships.

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### **Inclusion, Social Justice & Civic Engagement:**

Students who provide, utilize or interact with services and programs provided by KU Memorial Union will obtain skills, knowledge, & behaviors necessary to understand, appreciate, & interact with a diverse and interdependent world.

**Learning & Critical Thinking:** Students who provide, utilize or interact with services and programs provided by KU Memorial Union will obtain the skills, knowledge & behaviors necessary to synthesize knowledge from a variety of sources and make informed decisions.

### **Description of Service/Program**

The Union Program's Office is a campus-wide clearinghouse for activities in and around the KU Memorial Unions. Students are the motivating force behind Union Programs, the office provides advising and operational support to several student-led organizations.

- The Big Event connects the KU campus with the Lawrence community by recruiting thousands of student, faculty, and staff volunteers to work at hundreds of local job sites during one day of service. Through the year-long planning of this one day, the students experience planning that is reflective of non-profit management.
  - 14 student leaders, about 25 volunteers

### **Service/Program Student Learning Outcome(s)**

#### **Leadership Development**

- Students who provide, utilize or interact with services and programs provided by KU Memorial Union will be able to develop leadership skills (such as community building, goal setting and pursuit, and decision-making) that allow them to effectively guide others in pursuit of common goals.

#### **Event Management**

- Students who provide, utilize or interact with services and programs provided by KU Memorial Union will be able to develop event management skills (such as time management, budgeting, and risk management strategies) that can be applied at KU and beyond.

#### **Intrapersonal Development**

- Students who provide, utilize or interact with services and programs provided by KU Memorial Union will be able to develop personal life skills that will enable them to

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hold a realistic self-view, demonstrate personal responsibility and accountability, and seek emotional balance.

### **Interpersonal Relationships**

- Students who provide, utilize or interact with services and programs provided by KU Memorial Union will be able to develop interpersonal skills that will enable them to form meaningful and healthy relationships and communicate effectively with others.

### **Social Justice, Multiculturalism, & Civic Engagement**

- Students who provide, utilize or interact with services and programs provided by KU Memorial Union will be able to demonstrate their commitment to creating safe, equitable, and inclusive communities at KU and beyond.

### **Intellectual Growth & Thinking**

- Students who provide, utilize or interact with services and programs provided by KU Memorial Union will be able to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills that will enable them to apply and connect acquired knowledge.

### **Divisional Student Learning Outcomes:** *Check all that apply*

- Knowledge Acquisition
- Cognitive Complexity
- Intrapersonal Development
- Interpersonal Competence
- Humanitarianism & Civic Engagement
- Practical Competence

### **Project Specifics**

#### **Project Title:**

The Big Event Student Leaders Learning Outcomes Project

#### **Purpose of the project:**

The Union Programs Student Leader Learning Outcomes Project (of which the Big Event's Student Leaders Learning Outcomes Assessment is a part of) provides a universal method and tool for staff to use with student leaders in student organizations, programs, or activities to help in the assessment and documentation of enhanced learning in relation to the students' leadership experiences.

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Student leaders in the Big Event will be assessed on their knowledge of the six stated learning outcomes for the Union Programs Office. Relevant experiences encountered during each leader's time in their position are reflected back on the topics and themes of these learning outcomes, and part of the Big Event student leaders' ongoing leadership experience entails reflecting on and being able to speak to their knowledge of both the outcomes and associated skills/abilities emphasized therein.

The learning outcomes are spread across approximately 6 months within their leadership term. (Due to their shorter leadership term than SUA and KJHK, they are unable to focus on all learning outcomes in the same way.) The project still allows students to quantify their various skill sets through a pre-test self-evaluation, to explore and dig deeper into individual learning outcomes and associated skills on a monthly basis and reassess each of those, and end their yearlong term with a post-test self-evaluation to attempt to quantifiably compare their progress over the span of a year in office.

### **Assessment method(s):**

Pre/Post Self-Assessment (Pre: August/Post:April) with additional Self-Assessment and Advisor-facilitated reviews of individual learning outcome on a monthly basis.

Student leaders are asked to self-assess via questionnaire at the beginning of their terms in August. The questionnaire drills down detailed capabilities and skills that student self-assess and report on. Three of the possible topics are chosen based on student's self-assessment. Activities and workshops focused on these three learning outcomes are scheduled throughout their term. At the end of the academic year and the student leaders' respective term, students once again self-assess by answering the same initial questionnaire issued that previous August.

### **Staff contact(s):**

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**Timeline/frequency:**

August-April, three themed learning outcomes and review.

**Monthly focus on individual learning outcomes:** For leaders only--

Post Self-Assessment: As student leaders exit their positions, each leader will complete a post self-assessment.

**Population/Sample:**

14 Big Event student leaders

**Special challenges to this assessment:**

Finding worksheets, activities, or discussions that can be universally executed across the group of leaders that also allows for growth in both returning and new leaders.

As this group is not in the office as frequently as our other groups, planning time for extra activities can be challenging.

Shortened leadership term does not allow focus on all 6 learning outcomes.

**Use to inform current practice:**

The assessment results will be used in our daily contact and advisement of the student leaders, particularly how to adjust tactics to produce better student learning of the skills/outcomes in question. By this token, the assessment results aid in the ongoing improvement of the programs offered by the students leading these organizations.

By promoting improvement of these skills/outcomes through the Big Event experience, student learning is improved, student leadership is strengthened, and the program itself becomes a stronger vehicle for student success.

The assessment results are also used to inform advisors and leaders in setting direction for future training sessions with student leaders.

**Plans for reporting results:**

Share results with Student Affairs to be reported in Annual Report.

Share results with KUMU Corporation board members, KUMU Management Team, Union Programs Professional Staff and Students.



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Published on Union website

**CampusLabs Used:**  Yes  No