



4-Year Review Frequently Asked Questions

If you have a question about the CAP 4-Year Review process that is not addressed here, please contact the CAP Office or Chair of the CAP Committee (CAPC). Contact information is included on the last page.

Q: What does CAPC look for in reviewing 4-Year Review Reports?

A: CAPC looks for evidence that faculty and departments are focused on student learning and discerning whether student learning is happening. CAPC will review student learning for alignment with stated course learning objectives when the course initially received CAP designation.

Q: My course is up for 4-Year Review, but I have no assessment data. What do I do?

A: Many courses going through this process for the first time have not collected information around student learning before and this is perfectly acceptable. The 4-Year Review process is designed to help faculty begin the process of developing a plan for determining student learning and collecting evidence of that learning. Courses that are in this stage will likely be given a two-year conditional reapproval as the plans are put in place and assessment data is collected.

Q: If a course receives a conditional reapproval for two years, when is that course reviewed again?

A: After a two-year conditional reapproval, a course will have two full academic years before being reviewed again in the third academic year. For example, if a course was granted conditional reapproval during the 2016-17 review cycle, the course will be up for review again in 2019-20.

Q: What if a course that is up for 4-Year Review has not been taught?

A: If a course is up for review that has not been taught, please notify the CAP Office. A course may be granted a deferral of two years if it has not been offered. Only one deferral is allowed for each course. Deferral requests for the 2018-19 review cycle should be submitted to the CAP Office by October 15, 2018.

Q: What should be done if a faculty member who teaches a course up for review is on sabbatical?

A: If an instructor for a course is on sabbatical, it is still the department's responsibility to engage the 4-Year Review process. Since all CAP courses engage this process, faculty members and their departments should be aware of the timeline in advance of this process.

Q: My course is up for 4-Year Review and I want to make major changes to the course [e.g., adding/removing a CAP component or Institutional Learning Goals (ILGs)]. Should I do that all at once?

A: The 4-Year Review process is designed to look back over the last four years of the course and see how learning is going. While part of the review process is focused on changes in the future, the bulk of the reflection is on the course in the past, so it is best to focus on the delivery of the course to date and make changes to the course in the future. The 4-Year Review process expects courses are likely to see some modification after the process.

Q: The end of January is a hectic time of the academic year. May I turn in my report early?

A: Yes! You may upload your course's 4-Year Review Report to the Course Inventory Management (CIM) system any time prior to January 28, 2019. Please note that this submission deadline applies only to courses up for review during the 2018-19 review cycle. Beyond 2018-19, the submission deadline may change as the number of courses going through the process will expand significantly. With any changes in timing, departments will still be notified at least six months in advance about courses coming up for review in a given academic year.

Q: How is 4-Year Review different from the results of a cumulative final exam in a course?

A: A final exam in a course grades students' performance on a wide range of content areas without necessarily or explicitly linking back to broader, more holistic assessment of student achievement of particular course learning outcomes. The CAP 4-Year Review process asks faculty to reflect on student learning around course learning outcomes in an aggregate manner rather than focusing on scoring a particular student's grade on one assignment.

Q: The 4-Year Review Report asks for a response whether or not the Course Learning Objectives (CLOs) have already been mapped to the UD Institutional Learning Goals (ILGs) and CAP Component(s) for the course in the Course Inventory Management (CIM) system. What should the mapping look like?

A: This mapping was added to the CIM course proposal form in January 2017. Courses approved for CAP prior to this date will not have the mapping unless they were revised in some way after January 2017.

While the 4-Year Review Report form asks for mapping to the ILGs and CAP Component(s) for the course, mapping to the ILGs is sufficient since that is all that is required in CIM. You should determine how the CLOs connect with the ILGs and provide a simple response in the 4-Year Review Report, along the lines of the following example:

Scholarship: CLO 1, 4

Practical Wisdom: CLO 2

Critical Evaluation of Our Times: CLO 1, 3

Following the CAP Committee's response to the 4-Year Review Report and decision about renewing the course for CAP, the department/proposer will be asked to insert the mapping in CIM, along with any other updates to the course proposal.

Q: How will the 4-Year Review be handled for cross-listed courses?

A: Cross-listed courses are courses submitted and approved with identical content in CIM. The course prefix and number listed on the course proposal form in CIM is the "parent" course. The "child" course is referenced under these two questions in CIM: *Is this course listed under two or more departments? As which prefix and course number(s)?* The departments of both the "parent" and "child" course will be notified when cross-listed courses are up for review. The "parent" department will be expected to take the lead to complete the 4-Year Review Report and also to coordinate the report with the other department involved.

Q: What should a department do if it does not want to continue CAP designation for a course?

A: The department should notify the CAP Office about the intent to discontinue CAP designation. The department can make this choice at any time; it does not have to be tied to the 4-Year Review process. To discontinue CAP designation, the department offering the course will need to work with the CAP Office, in coordination with all academic units, to develop a plan to phase out the course. This coordination must be done to minimize disruption in the courses of study of students likely to take the course.

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