Chemistry has not yet begun assessment of our two graduate programs, although we have had much discussion of it. We are holding off while we revise our curriculum. Currently, we are replacing our core course sequence with courses that better align with Graduate Program priorities (including a graduate writing intensive course) and with our students’ preparation. The department has already reviewed and approved the syllabus for our proposed GWI course (CHEM 210). In addition to developing a GWI, we are examining changes to our core graduate laboratory courses. This has been motivated by our impression that students coming into our program in the last few years have more than adequate preparation for graduate laboratory experience. This is perhaps due to the increasing population of graduate students coming from our Bachelor’s programs where they gain extensive laboratory experience through independent laboratory capstone courses (which is assessed through our undergraduate assessment plan). This obviates the need for graduate level laboratory courses which will lower both WTU and operating costs of the graduate program. The Chemistry Graduate Committee has discussed two different curricular replacements for our two core graduate lab courses. We also have a preliminary survey of graduate students in F2011 on their preference for graduate lab courses and have brought these results and discussion back to the Department. The next phase is for the Graduate Committee to complete the change in graduate lab courses for department approval. As soon as graduate curricular changes are implemented (we are aiming for Fall, 2012), we will begin developing a graduate assessment plan. The Department of Chemistry is a recognized leader on campus in developing and implementing an undergraduate assessment plan. Furthermore, we have learned a great deal about our programs and improving assessment through analysis of five year’s worth of data from undergraduate assessment. From these experiences, we are confident we will be able to quickly develop an effective and thorough plan for graduate program assessment.

Since we are not doing assessment of graduate programs yet, the remaining questions are N/A.