GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COURSE ASSESSMENT REPORT

SEMESTER/YEAR: Fall 2010

DEPARTMENT: Mathematics

COURSE TITLE: Mathematics 111 / Finite Mathematics

PARTICIPANTS (min. 2): Charlotte Schulten, only 1 section offered

COURSE-LEVEL SLO(s) ASSESSED THIS SEMESTER:

(1.) Students will be able to calculate the probability of events from distributions and discrete sample spaces, as well as calculate the expected value of random variables.

METHODS OF ASSESSMENT: Students were given a cumulative final exam at the end of the course. One question was chosen to assess the SLO.

ANALYSIS OF ASSESSMENT:

Question 7. Write out the sample space for a couple that has 3 kids, recording the possible gender sequences.(2points) Then find the probability that the couple had exactly 2 girls.(2points)

Of the 29 students who took the final, the results were as follows:

18 students received a perfect score on the problem, showing mastery of the concept – both analysis and calculation.

10 students received 3 out of 4 points, making a small mistake in the calculation. Most of these students seemed to be unclear on the meaning of the word “exactly”.

1 student received 1 point on the problem, as they failed to set the problem up correctly and so could not finish the calculations.

Overall, we were very pleased with the results as most of the students seemed to understand the concept being tested.

PLAN: Indicate if your assessment results reveal a need for course improvement in order to improve student achievement, and what plans your department will make to do so.

The results were discussed at the mathematics retreat in February 2011. As mentioned in the analysis, the only real problem was with vocabulary. A stronger emphasis on the specific meaning of certain statistical terms is recommended and a similar problem will be put on next year’s final. A few students seemed to forget that the easiest way of calculating probabilities is with the sample space. Since this problem could also be solved by formula, it is recommended that the instructor do these probability calculations side-by-side.