I. TITLE: Institutional Research, Assessment and Accreditation

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PREREQUISITE(S):
This course provides an overview of best practices of institutional research. Additionally, students have the opportunity to develop strategies to investigate relevant trends or problems within an institution. Field experience required.

Prerequisite(s): ADM 725 and ADM 730

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES:
The student will be able to
A. identify research needs and define research questions associated with current issues in higher education;
B. describe historical, social, political, financial, ethical, and other issues pertaining to assessment and evaluation in higher education;
C. discuss the roles of diverse constituencies in requesting, providing, and receiving information related to assessment and evaluation;
D. identify accreditation requirements;
E. identify formal and informal sources of data and information;
F. conduct critical reviews of existing research and identify factors influencing the application of research findings to specific problems in higher education;
G. prepare a research plan that includes well-defined questions, research methods, a timeline for implementation, resource requirements, and procedures for communicating results;
H. gather, organize, analyze, and synthesize data and interpret information from multiple sources; and
I. effectively communicate research findings orally and in writing to diverse constituencies.

IV. CONTENT OUTLINE:
A. History of institutional research
B. Practicing institutional research
C. Institutional research, change and organizational improvement
D. Accreditation
E. Trends and issues in institutional research
F. Strategies and best practices of institutional research

V. INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:
A. Lecture
B. Assigned readings
C. Interviews
D. Field project

VI. FIELD, CLINICAL, AND/OR LABORATORY EXPERIENCES:
Field Project: Students will work within a postsecondary institution to identify institutional needs of interest. A plan will be developed and proposed to investigate the problem using appropriate methods and measures.

Doctoral students in the class will complete an additional research report from this field experience.
VII. TEXT(S) AND RESOURCES:

VIII. EVALUATION AND GRADING PROCEDURES:
Evaluation and grade will be determined by assignments, tests, and projects based on text, supplementary readings in professional journals, lectures, presentations, group activities, and class discussions.

Signature Assignment: Students will work within a postsecondary institution to identify institutional needs of interest. A plan will be developed and proposed to investigate the problem using appropriate methods and measures.

Doctoral students in the class will complete an additional research report from this field experience.

IX. ATTENDANCE POLICY:
Students are expected to adhere to the MSU Attendance Policy outlined in the current MSU Bulletin.

X. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:
Murray State University takes seriously its moral and educational obligation to maintain high standards of academic honesty and ethical behavior. Instructors are expected to evaluate students’ academic achievements accurately, as well as ascertain that work submitted by students is authentic and the result of their own efforts, and consistent with established academic standards. Students are obligated to respect and abide by the basic standards of personal and professional integrity.

Violations of Academic Honesty include:

**Cheating** - Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized information such as books, notes, study aids, or other electronic, online, or digital devices in any academic exercise; as well as unauthorized communication of information by any means to or from others during any academic exercise.

**Fabrication and Falsification** - Intentional alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise. Falsification involves changing information whereas fabrication involves inventing or counterfeiting information.

**Multiple Submission** - The submission of substantial portions of the same academic work, including oral reports, for credit more than once without authorization from the instructor.

**Plagiarism** - Intentionally or knowingly representing the words, ideas, creative work, or data of someone else as one’s own in any academic exercise, without due and proper acknowledgement.

Instructors should outline their expectations that may go beyond the scope of this policy at the beginning of each course and identify such expectations and restrictions in the course syllabus. When an instructor receives evidence, either directly or indirectly, of academic dishonesty, he or she should investigate the instance. The faculty member should then take appropriate disciplinary action.

Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to the following:

1) Requiring the student(s) to repeat the exercise or do additional related exercise(s).
2) Lowering the grade or failing the student(s) on the particular exercise(s) involved.
3) Lowering the grade or failing the student(s) in the course.

If the disciplinary action results in the awarding of a grade of E in the course, the student(s) may not drop the course.

Faculty reserve the right to invalidate any exercise or other evaluative measures if substantial evidence exists that the integrity of the exercise has been compromised. Faculty also reserve the right to document in the course syllabi further academic honesty policy elements related to the individual disciplines.
A student may appeal the decision of the faculty member with the department chair in writing within five working days. Note: If, at any point in this process, the student alleges that actions have taken place that may be in violation of the Murray State University Non-Discrimination Statement, this process must be suspended and the matter be directed to the Office of Equal Opportunity. Any appeal will be forwarded to the appropriate university committee as determined by the Provost.

XI. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT:
Murray State University endorses the intent of all federal and state laws created to prohibit discrimination. Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, veteran status, or disability in employment, admissions, or the provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities equal access to participate in all programs and activities. For more information, contact the Director of Equal Opportunity, 103 Wells Hall, (270) 809-3155 (voice), (270) 809-3361 (TDD).