Name: Heitor Almeida
Unit: College of Business, Finance PhD program

1. Please briefly describe what your unit has done to implement any part of their unit assessment plan as submitted in Spring 2008. Have you worked on anything specific to assess student outcomes?

We assess students' success in reaching the different milestones in the program, including maintaining a satisfactory GPA, passing the second year field examinations, making satisfactory progress towards dissertation, and finishing the PhD in timely fashion. In addition, we track our students' placement after they graduate, including job responsibilities and salaries.

2. What has been the early impact of outcomes assessment within your unit? Please include changes that have been or will be made in curricula, policies, processes, personnel, and/or departmental culture based on your assessment results.

We have made several significant changes to enhance the quality of the program and improve student outcomes. Last year (2009-2010) we started a study group with the PhD students to allow them to discuss the most current research topics that are presented in our weekly seminar. The students also have a weekly slot with our seminar speaker. This initiative allows the students to interact directly with the top researchers in the profession, and think critically about the research process. For the next academic year (2010-2011) we have changed the teaching requirements of our PhD students to allow them to be better prepared for their future teaching responsibilities. We have also added a new Finance class to the PhD program, in order to better prepare the students to do independent research in the field of Finance and to get more Professors involved with the program.

3. What unexpected things have occurred?

Nothing in particular.

4. What are your unit's outcomes assessment plans for the upcoming academic year (including refinements to existing plans)?

We plan to continue assessing student outcomes as we have done in the past.

5. How can the university help you with your assessment plans?

We have no particular needs at the present time, everything is going well.