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 Program-level

Assessment manual

**Background**

We know all programs undergo assessment; we as a College just need a way to prove to our accrediting bodies that assessments are happening and affecting change, if needed.

**Purpose**

We want to focus on our ongoing commitment to improve student learning. Through this, we will begin to develop, document, and implement a systematic approach to assessment that leads to institutional improvement. Assessment results will provide departments an opportunity to engage faculty in professional development, dialogue and, most importantly, the occasion to discuss curricular improvements based on assessment results within the department.

**Steps to take to create and implement an assessment plan**

1. **Select your team to lead program-level assessments in your discipline.**
	* This team will help you champion the project to your other faculty
2. **Create an assessment plan for all program outcomes. See page 3 for detailed instructions.**
	* Even if you just list all outcomes for the program, this plan will help you see what you’d like to assess first. Start with the easiest outcome to assess for your first year.
3. **Select ONE outcome from ONE course to assess**
	* Select an outcome that will be the easy to assess. The first year is about refining your assessment process as much as it is about the assessments themselves.
4. **Create a rubric for assessing the outcome**
	* The rubric should assess the individual program outcome. That way, all assignments will work for the same rubric, even if you only use a part of the assignment or a question or two from a test.
5. **Communicate to your fellow faculty about the assessment cycle and what their steps are to participate (align in Blackboard, collect data, etc)**
	* The Assessment Office can create a communication plan customized for your discipline. We can map out the year for your faculty so they know which task is coming up each month, when assessments starts, etc.
6. **Start collecting assignments/artifacts via alignments**
	* Aligning assignments (also known as artifacts in Assessment) in Blackboard only takes a few quick clicks! See page 10 for more detailed information.
7. **Start assessing artifacts**
	* Once your artifacts are collected, your team and any other discipline faculty you’d like can begin comparing the artifacts against the rubric and entering your results in the Data Results column of your assessment plan
8. **Discuss the results**
	* If your results are below your chosen benchmarks, discuss what changes will be made to increase your results for the next time you assess this particular outcome. More homework, more lectures on a given topic, new assignments to assess the outcome, etc.
9. **Implement any changes to the plan, assignments, outcomes, etc**
	* Start trying out the changes your data led you to make.
10. **Document changes and/or results with the Assessment office for safe keeping for the HLC reports**
	* There will be an online form to complete at the end of next summer to report:
		+ Program Learning Outcome
		+ Assignment/Artifact types used
		+ Benchmark met/not met
		+ Changes implementing in Fall

**SAMPLE ASSESSMENT PLAN**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Program Learning Outcome** | **Assessment Tool/****Assignment****(Artifact)** | **Course**  | **Assessment Cycle** | **Benchmarks** | **Data Results** | **Data Review** | **Action Plan** | **Date Completed** |
| Safely administer effective treatment  | -Essay How do you assess this? | AAA 1010What course does the assignment come from? | -Collect in Fall, Assess in SpringYou should assess 2 or 3 outcomes each year | 80% pass rateWhat does success look like for this outcome? | 75% have passedThis would be entered after you assess your criteria | Faculty meeting in SpringPlease enter when you will review the Data | Add additional Safety assignmentWhat will you change if your results are too low? | 5-17-20 |

1. **Enter in your Program Learning Outcomes**:
	1. Simply list all Course Learning Outcomes (listed in the College catalog)
2. **Enter in your Assessment Tools/Assignments**:
	1. What are you using to assess your outcomes? An assignment? Surveys? Labs? Quiz questions?
3. **Enter in your Course**
	1. Which courses do the assignments come from?
4. **Enter in your Assessment Cycle**:
	1. When do you assess? Once a year? Once a semester? 9 months after graduation?
5. **Enter in your Benchmarks**:
	1. What level of success do you want to achieve in your assessments? 90% satisfaction? 80% get a B or above? 75% pass on the first attempt?
6. **Enter in your Data Results**:
	1. What were the results of your assessments?
7. **Enter in your Date Review:**
	1. When is the best time for your faculty to discuss the results of your assessment?
8. **Enter in your Action Plan**:
	1. What actions will you take to achieve your goal if your results are lower than your desired benchmark?

Below is a timeline of tasks to accomplish. The following pages have in-depth checklists. At the end of this document are guides to create assignments in Blackboard, align assignments, and evaluate assignments.



Summer/Fall

Summer/Fall

FALL



SPRING

Spring/ Summer

Fall





**Create one rubric that will cover all assignments.**

**The rubric should pertain directly to the course-level outcome you have chosen.**

**CLOA, LOA, and CLE are available to assist with rubric creation**

**Select one outcome from one course to begin your project**

**Suggested courses include:**

**-Highest enrollment courses**

**-Courses with different modalities**

**-Courses that will get the highest faculty participation**

**Please have your faculty select one assignment that applies to your chosen outcome**

**OR**

**Create a sample assignment for all faculty to use**

**OR**

**Choose another way to assess your outcome (Standardized quiz, self-reporting data, etc.)**

**Rubric**

**Assignments**

Faculty Communication

*The assessment office can provide each assessment group with information on:*

* *FAQ sheet about assessment that can help guide the introduction of the project and subsequent discussions counterparts meetings.*
* *Best assessment practices*
* *How-to guides for using Blackboard Outcomes*
* *A detailed plan of assessment, individualized for your department*
* *Assessment procedures outside of Blackboard*

**Course and Outcome**



Date Sent:

Faculty reminders:





Assessment information

Assessments due:

**Improvement Plan**

Assessments due: