

Summary of General Comments and Themes

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There seems to be a difference in the assessment methods used versus which are valued to determine whether students are learning the program/course outcomes.

Methods Used

1. Student Surveys
2. Alumni Surveys
3. Departmental Exams
4. Student Papers
5. Student Projects
6. Student Portfolios
7. Capstone Courses
8. Transcript Analysis
9. Commercial Exams
10. Employer Surveys
11. Student Interview/Focus Groups
12. Anecdotal Evidence

Methods Valued

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Note: Based on survey conducted by Neil Pagano, Columbia College Chicago

Institutions do not routinely use student assessment data in internal decision making or monitor its impact on important areas of institutional and student performance.

Given the extensive claims made for the value of students' assessment and the substantial human and financial resources invested in student assessment activities, institutions need to give greater priority to examining how student assessment data is used, and how it impacts the performance of individual students and the institution itself.

The mission statement is the beginning of a successful assessment. Tie it to the strategic plan for the division and university.

Money to conduct assessment is scarce or non-existent. Find out what resources currently exist and maximize them.

Information is expensive so collect only that information that you will use.

Slow and steady is better than hurried and sloppy.

Most people won't want to do it. This can be construed as a threat to what they do.

Informing colleagues is an important piece. People will feel that collecting information is a waste of time unless they see the value in the results.

Assessment plan elements: student learning outcomes, assessment method for each outcome, groups to be included, timeline for assessment implementation, process for data presentation and discussion and process for implementing revisions based on assessment results.

Universities should be involved in creating their own assessment standards while they still can before the federal or state government agencies do it for them.