The Assessment Cycle

Goal #1 = We do not want to waste your time.

What is Assessment Really About?

- Assessment is the systematic basis for making inferences about the learning and development of students. It is the process of defining, selecting, designing, collecting, analyzing, interpreting, and using information to increase students’ learning and development. Erwin 1991

- Assessment is the systematic collection, review, and use of information about educational programs undertaken for the purpose of improving student learning and development. Palomba and Banta 1999

- Assessment involves the use of empirical data on student learning to refine programs and improve student learning. Allen 2004
The Key to Sustainable Assessment

Garbage In → Garbage Out

Course-level data must be uniform and open to validation

Standardization Reduces Bias

The first principle is that you must not fool yourself, and you are the easiest person to fool.

Richard Feynman

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The Plan

- Gather course-level assessment data for all General Education classes
- Simplify, standardize, and automate documentation
- Use TracDat as a permanent and secure repository for all raw data
- De-identify, aggregate, analyze, and report findings publicly
- Evaluate, discuss, and use the data to improve the program

Standardize Learning Outcomes

- CUL1: Interpretation – Students will be able to demonstrate an increased ability to interpret cultural works and practices, including but not limited to art, music, literature, language, history, philosophy and religion, as part of a broader culture and justify those interpretations with an understanding of the interpretive process.
- CUL2: Self-Awareness – Students will be able to articulate an understanding of themselves as part of culture(s) with rich historical perspectives and gain increased self-understanding through works of culture(s).
- CUL3: Analysis – Students will be able to develop justify and improve value distinctions (including aesthetic and ethical) in perception, craft and/or life choices.
- CUL4 Process-Awareness, Participation – Students will be able to explain the processes contexts and motivations behind the production of cultural works and practices, and when appropriate be able to participate in their creation.

Standardized Measures

- Fourteen different types of assignments
  - Exams
  - Products
  - Performances
- Pre-determined definitions
  - Scoring
  - Analysis
- Criteria of "success"
**Standard Pedagogies**

- Twelve pedagogies are defined
- Includes many “high-impact” practices
- Not meant to imply the superiority of any method
- Will track use over programs and time

**Registering Your Course**

- All courses with General Education attributes must register for each attribute online.
- This will enable me to create an assignment for you later this semester.
- The authentication code for this semester is: Chaucer
- Now is the time to complete your registrations

**Standardized Data Collection**

- 36 Excel workbooks are available
- 4 for each competency
- 4 for training purposes
- SCORE – for exams
- PREPOST – for pre-test/post-test
- NORM – for standardized exams
- RUBRIC – for products and performances
TracDat Assignments

- Assignments for data reporting are emailed
- Copy and paste the workbook summary
- Complete a few other fields
- Attach the workbook and submit
- The entire process can be done in one cup of coffee

Standardized Analysis

- All analyses and reports will be reproducible
- All datasets will be “FERPAnated”
- All de-identified datasets, analyses, and reports will be under version control and publicly available
- We will be using the Open Science Framework [https://osf.io/bax9i/](https://osf.io/bax9i/)

Standardized Reporting

- General Education assessment reports will be formatted as journal articles in HTML and PDF
Multiple Integrated Opportunities for Faculty Evaluation and Input

- Assessment is when the faculty evaluate, critique, discuss, and act upon the reported data.
- Reports will be made publicly for feedback.
- Disqus is embedded in the HTML reports.
- Comments are implemented in OSF.
- Pull requests can be made using GitHub.

General Education Dashboard

- A prototype dashboard is now functional.
- Provides an executive overview of student learning.
- Some ability to filter the data will be provided.
- Need your input to complete the interface.

The End Result

- TracDat will be populated with a large number of standardized reports.
- Meta-analysis of this dataset will be used to answer a variety of questions.
- All faculty will have access to the data, analysis code, and reports.
- A feedback cycle is built into data reporting to allow contextualization of results.
Assessment Training

- Several general training sessions will be offered to facilitate data reporting this semester
- Training sessions can also be provided to specific program groups if requested
- Assessment coordinators (where available) can also help out
- Online training videos are being created to clarify each step of the assessment process

Questions or Comments?

Thank You!