

ASSESSMENT COUNSEL

Need help? Contact your Assessment Coordinator!

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Online Resources

[CMU Mission Statement](#)

[Policy on Student Learning Outcomes Assessment](#)

[Assessment Vocabulary](#)

[Guidelines and Application for Funding Support](#)

[Submission Process for Annual Reports](#)

[WEAVEOnline User's Guide for Annual Assessment Reporting](#)

[Assessment Council Members, Meetings, & Minutes](#)

ASSESSMENT REPORTS FROM 2011-12: WHAT DID WE LEARN ABOUT PROGRAMS AND ABOUT ASSESSMENT?

The Assessment Council has finished its review of all reports for the 2011-12 academic year. Your College Assessment Coordinator and the Assessment Council have written letters to your department chair providing feedback on the strengths and possible shortcomings of your assessment activities. The Coordinators are also meeting with departments to provide feedback to you and to learn about any questions or concerns regarding the process to share with the Council.

In reviewing the reports, the Assessment Council has found some common themes.

1) In some departments, the discussions of assessment findings have been limited – both to a small # of department members and in terms of “time on task.” The conversations about student learning prompted by assessment findings are sometimes the most valuable part of assessment activities! We encourage you and your colleagues to discuss your assessment findings and your students’ learning .

2) Some departments are sharing assessment findings with multiple audiences, while others are restricting such sharing

to program faculty. We encourage you to share findings more broadly – with your students, with your alumni, & with your advisory boards. We recognize that departmental stakeholders differ across programs, and you ultimately must choose your audiences, always keeping in mind the need to protect student confidentiality.

3) Many programs reported they didn’t collect particular kinds of data during the 2011-12 academic year. In WEAVE, some simply said something like: “Alumni survey was not completed during 2011-12.” While the Assessment Council understands you will not implement each Measure each year, they do hope you will provide some additional detail in the future. Perhaps something like: “Alumni survey was not completed during 2011-12. The department plans to implement such a survey in 2013-14.”

4) In writing your assessment reports, do remember that your audiences consist of faculty and others who are not experts in your discipline. With this in mind, try to avoid using technical jargon and acronyms as much as possible. Also in summarizing findings, include the

number of students on which findings are based and the number of students in your program. You might, for example, say something like: “42 out of the 50 students completing the _____ program completed our exit exam.”

5) Many programs noted in the Analysis Question section that they intend to modify their assessment plans. This is fine. The process begins by the department contacting their College Assessment Coordinator (See contact info on left).

6) Finally, it is clear to the Council that some departments are just beginning to collect student learning data. In some cases, the data collected during 2011-12 was minimal at best. REMEMBER: THE NEXT ASSESSMENT REPORTS ARE DUE BY 10-1-13. The Council will be expecting more extensive data collection during 2012-13. Work with your colleagues to make sure that you’re collecting appropriate assessment data during this year. Contact your College Coordinator if you have questions or need help with the data collection process. AND THANK YOU for your attention to assessment matters and to your students’ learning.

UPCOMING ASSESSMENT WORKSHOPS!

Schedule of Sessions

Assessment Basics:

- Tuesday, Feb 26, 2013
11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
- Thursday, Feb 28, 2013
1:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.

Assessment Workshop— Revisiting Assessment Plans

- Tuesday, March 12, 2013
10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
- Thursday, March 14, 2013
10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

- Monday, March 18, 2013
1:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m.
- Friday, March 22, 2013
10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

All sessions are in Park Library,
Room 413.