

Assessment Committee Update

Presentation to the Teaching and Learning Council
June 6, 2025

Elizabeth Carney, on behalf of the Assessment Committee

AY 2024-25 Highlight

Contributed to an accreditation report to the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities and participated in a visit from evaluators in October. The NWCCU removed one of our assessment Recommendations!

~~Rec 1: Fully implement a system of assessment~~



We still have this one:

Rec 2: Continue to improve the use of assessment results, especially at the institution level



AY 2024-25 Highlights, cont.

Launched the new two-year academic assessment reporting cycle

Did a major revision of the assessment report template that we plan to release it this Fall

Conducted a report review process...more on that in the next slides!

Reporting!



Report Review Process, December 2024

WHO: Assessment Committee and the College's Instruction and Student Services Vice President and Deans

WHAT: Each person read a sample of reports and responded to a set of questions about strengths and challenges of the assessment process

(In addition to this group review, the Assessment Coordinator provides individual feedback on all reports)

[Link to the Report Summary](#)

Common Strengths:

Discussion

Collaboration

Using assessment results to inform decisions (although the connection between results and use could be better explained in some reports)

Related Reader Comments:

A number of reports mentioned the value of assessment discussions among faculty.

One of the richest aspects of the reports in my opinion was the description of collaborat[ion] across departments

Findings from assessment activities have been used to improve PLOs, course assignments and activities.

Common Challenges:

Limited time and capacity

Assessment competing with other important work

While some reports clearly communicate the value of assessment, others seem to be just “checking the box”

Related Reader Comments:

Many folks talked about the challenge of integrating new faculty into the work and the feeling of not being able to get their feet under them, especially with ongoing emergencies (ice storm, cyber attack, etc.)

In several cases, programs emphasized the small size of their team and/or difficulty in getting faculty to participate- FTF and/or AF

...reduction in FTF, transition in FTF after retirements or resignations

Workload Can Influence Teaching and Learning

Discussion comment from an Assessment Committee member:

When you have limited time and resources, you default to ways of approaching curriculum and teaching that are not necessarily the best for students, that leave out many students, and that are not necessarily supported by evidence from literature or from your own assessment.

Reader Comments about Ways to Respond to Workload Challenges

...changes to program curriculum driven by the state (MTM, CCN, other), professional accreditation, advisory board or industry input/needs, and other transfer needs... [this work] requires a lot of time, effort,...and needs to be considered in planning for...faculty workload/work prioritization

...specific support for assessment that could be incorporated into college planning (release time, assessment work for department could count as committee work, additional in-services, etc.).

Next Steps?

WHAT:

Gather information, engage affected folks

Better understand the factors involved in workload challenges and how they impact both assessment and other aspects of work

Eventual goal: propose a workable solution.

WHO:

The Assessment Committee can contribute but the larger issue seems beyond our scope.

Is this something the Teaching and Learning Council would consider taking on?

Slide 2 Sources: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/buh-bye--319263061060026388/>
https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fmemes.getyarn.io%2Fyarn-clip%2F0ba2e45f-bfcc-4ca2-8d92-cc40e69661ef%2Fgif&psig=AOvVaw1RAAqv8_jWz8CMHj1Edqqqt&ust=1749250745958000&source=images&cd=vfe&opi=89978449&ved=0CBQQjhxxqFwoTClieyYCx240DFQAAAAAdAAAAABAK

Slide 3:

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.freepik.com%2Fphotos%2Fdog-meme-online&psig=AOvVaw3uxYHISH8zgjW5ZkLXBWJ1&ust=1749251998368000&source=images&cd=vfe&opi=89978449&ved=0CBcQjhxxqFwoTCLjH3eS1240DFQAAAdAAAAABAE>