

Assessment Results & Improvement Plan

Department/Program and Degree:	Assessment Office
Assessment Project Name:	<i>From Conversations to Systematic Program Assessment</i>
Semester/Yr Evidence Collected:	Fall 2010
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Person Submitting:	Marlene Lowe
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Executive Summary:

As part of the fall 2010 *Practical Activities for Program Assessment* workshop series, the Assessment Office (AO) offered a workshop entitled *From Conversations to Systematic Program Assessment* on December 13, 2010. The workshop was advertised as an intermediate level workshop appropriate for faculty and staff in graduate programs and small undergraduate programs. The workshop provided strategies for documenting conversations and using them as evidence in program assessment. The workshop outcome was assessed through the workshop evaluation.

Of the 18 people who attended the workshop, 16 (89%) completed and returned the workshop evaluation.

The learning outcome was met and participants were satisfied with the usefulness and effectiveness of the workshop.

1. State the SLO(s) that was Assessed, Targeted, or Studied

Outcome: You will leave knowing how to document committee decisions and department conversations about student learning so they can be used for program improvement.

2. State the Type(s) of Evidence Gathered

Workshop evaluation

3. State How the Evidence was Interpreted, Evaluated, or Analyzed

The AO student worker compiled the data; Marlene analyzed the data then discussed the results with Monica.

4. State How Many Pieces of Evidence Were Collected

16

5. Summarize the Actual Results

See Attachment A for workshop evaluation results.

- The majority of respondents indicated they could apply workshop information to their own programs.
- 94% of respondents rated the workshop as either “Useful” or “Very Useful.”
- 81% of respondents indicated the workshop was either “Effective” or “Very Effective” in increasing their understanding of the topic.
- 69% of respondents rated the level of information presented as “About Right” while 25% of respondents rated the level of information presented as “Too Basic.”
- When asked to identify the most useful aspect of the workshop, many respondents cited the examples.

The assessment benchmark is 80%.

6. In addition to the actual results, were there additional conclusions or discoveries?

Number of Attendees = 18

Number Registered = 21

Number of Registered “no shows” = 6

Rate of registered attendees = 71%

Number of Walk-Ins = 3

This information is being tracked in order to better plan future workshops.

7. Briefly Describe the Distribution and Discussion of Results

Results were distributed and discussed informally.

8. Use of Results/Program Modifications:

At present the AO is satisfied with the assessment results. The facilitators are concerned that 25% of participant felt the information presented was “Too Basic.” If the workshop is offered in the future, facilitators should address the level of the workshop - “basic” or “intermediate” and make content changes accordingly.

9. Reflect on the Assessment Process

10. Other Important Information

Appendix A:
From Conversations to Systematic Program Assessment
Workshop Evaluation Results
(n = 16)

1. What can you apply from today's workshop to your program?

- Help to organize the department to participate in Program Assessment
- Can begin to deliberately construct the conversations.
- Form to be used in faculty discussions.
- Google Forms
- The chart format administered at [not legible] (comp. exams, proposals, defense, etc.)
- Translating Program SLOs into an evaluation tool (unacceptable → NA scale)
- I am not in evaluation per se, but I like the idea of organizing my individual teachers' SLOs (I would need to create these) into levels and charting them. Thanks for the ideas.
- Preparation for NAAB visit.
- I am writing an undergraduate grant for minority students – all ideas about creating this program assessment were valid.
- I can apply the skills I learned about comparing student data.
- Importance of assessing program/systematic assessment.
- Great example for comps/defenses, etc.
- SLOs within our Master's program.
- Not much, frankly.

2. Please rate the overall usefulness of this workshop. (Check one)

44% (7) Very Useful

50% (8) Useful

6% (1) Of Little Use

0 Not Useful At All

0 No Opinion

3. To what extent was this workshop effective in increasing your understanding of the topic? (Check one)

31% (5) Very Effective

50% (8) Effective

13% (2) Somewhat Effective

6% (1) Not Very Effective

0 Not Sure

4. Please rate the level of the information presented.

25% (4) Too Basic

69% (11) About Right

0 Too Advanced

6% (1) Other – “First day...fairly basic but expected”

5. What was the most valuable aspect of the workshop? Why?

- Making point about aggregation several times.
- Examples of organization level.
- Examples, figures & charts/handouts
- The “aggregate and analyze student performance evaluation” chart.
- Great suggestion on how to get started with form evaluations! (Starting is the most difficult)
- Conversation aspect being critical.
- Forms
- Actual info for freq. data, not advanced statistics
- Use of statistics
- Comparing student data activity.
- Importance of assessing program/systematic assessment
- Seeing examples (e.g. history)
- Examples and logistics
- How to's.

6. What was the least valuable aspect of the workshop? Why?

- Having Power Point without having the slides as a handout to take notes on during the workshop.
- This was all valuable info.

7. Other constructive comments?

- Would be nice to do brief introductions of participants
- Cookie cutter examples don't reveal much of relevance to actual (complex) graduate programs.
- Good presentation.
- Don't give negative feedback when people ask questions.