

**Academic Quality Assurance and Improvement: A Focus on Assessment
South Dakota State University Quality Improvement Project
May 2016 Update**

Project #1: Develop consistently high quality and sustainable program level assessment plans which are used to inform improvements over time. Based on review of current practices, we will update and enhance the current assessment infrastructure (robust website with assessment resources, reports, findings; assessment software to support data gathering, report generation) so as to be well-positioned to launch the SDSU Assessment Academy which will be rolled out over three academic years (2016-17; 2017-18; 2018-19).

Project #2: Expand the scope of assessment to include co-curricular activities and service units. As we work toward building a stronger culture of inquiry, we need to expand to include more co-curricular activities/events and their impact on student learning.

Plan of Work (Year One: 2015-16)

Work Group #1: Design and implement assessment surveys. (Note: these surveys are designed to assess the current status of assessment at SDSU)

Members: David Cartrette, Jana Hanson, Will Prigge, Howard Bonneman, Dan Humberg, Jason McEntee, Jeff Hale

Progress to date:

- Program Level Assessment Survey (academics) – distributed to department heads and includes questions about purpose of assessment, how assessment data are used, what additional resources are needed to support assessment efforts, etc. Nearly 100% participation
- SDSU Assessment Culture Survey (administrator and faculty version). Are partnering with Sam Houston State University (February 2016 implementation; data received, analysis underway)
- Program Level Assessment Survey (co-curricular) - distributed in April 2016
- SDSU Assessment Culture Survey (student affairs/co-curricular) – distributed in May 2016

Work Group #2: Review and select assessment software.

Members: Byron Garry, Teresa Seefeldt, Kinchel Doerner, Jessica Meendering, Dennis Hedge, Van Kelley, Sherri Newcomb

Progress to date:

- Reviewed current assessment processes, procedures, forms, etc at SDSU.
- Generated list of “critical components of assessment” – what needs to be included in high quality assessment plans in higher education; based on review of other institutions assessment materials, Ewell’s Assessment for Improvement paradigm, National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment materials, etc.

- Identified critical components for any assessment management system; then using these criteria reviewed 7 products including:
 - Academic Effect, CampusLabs*, eLumen, LiveText*, Tracdat, Taskstream*, TK20*
- Narrowed to 4 for online demonstrations*
- Narrow to 2 for on-campus demonstrations (CampusLabs and Taskstream)
- Recommendation: CampusLabs

Work Group #3: Define and identify co-curricular activities/events.

Members: *Teresa Seefeldt, Sam Jennings, Nick Wendell, Kinchel Doerner, Nathan Ziegler, Linde Murray, Jeanne Davidson, Marj Thompson*

Progress to date:

- Prepared draft definition of co-curricular activities (based on extensive review of other university definitions, key documents such as *Learning Reconsidered II*, etc.)
At South Dakota State University, co-curricular activities, promote, encourage and support student learning and success. In partnership with academic curricula, such activities educate the whole student, preparing them a life-long learners, engaged professionals and citizens of the world. Co-curricular activities typically occur outside of the formal classroom.
- Student learning outcomes and assessment strategies identified to help guide work for student affairs units

Work Group #4: Identify and make available assessment resources; develop and launch a comprehensive assessment website.

Members: *Jana Hanson, Byron Garry, Lois Tschetter, Mary Bowne, Carey Kilmer, Cable Hardin*

Progress to date:

- Adopted National Institute of Learning Outcomes Assessment (NILOA) Transparency Framework to guide work
- Reviewed assessment website of other universities
- Identification of assessment resources/reports to include
- Beginning stages of creating website

Work Group #5: Design the SDSU Assessment Academy

Members: *Mary Kay Helling, David Cartrette, Will Prigge, Karla Hunter, Sam Jennings, Dennis Papini, Kevin Sackreiter, Jana Hanson*

Progress to date:

- 2016-17 SDSU Assessment Academy participants identified; books distributed
- Plan for 2016-17 SDSU Assessment Academy outlined