Outcomes Assessment Forum October 23, 2009 Queens College

Steve Schwarz, Office of the Provost Eva Fernandez, CTL Dean Savage, Dept. of Sociology

Rubric for Evaluating Institutional Student Learning Assessment Processes

This is intended for institutions to use as a tool to help them assess the status of their current assessment efforts in terms of Middle States' accreditation standards and expectations. This tool is **not** intended to be used by any evaluators or to prescribe specific Commission actions regarding the institution.

No plans No evidence

80

= No documented evidence that the institution has plans to do this.

= The institution appears to be aware that it should do this, but there is **no documented evidence that this is happening**.

A few areas

Some areas

The institution has documented evidence that this is happening in just a few areas (for example, only in programs with specialized accreditation).
 The institution has documented evidence—not just assurances—that this is happening in some but not most areas (for example, in a number of

academic programs but not yet in general education)

Most areas = The institution has documented evidence—not just assurances—that this is happening in most but not all areas.

Everywhere = The institution has documented evidence--not just assurances--that this is happening everywhere.

	For academic programs, the general education curriculum, and institutional goals articulated in the mission statement, vision statement, or elsewhere:	No plans	Na evidence	A few aneas	Some areas	Most areas	Every- where
1	Institutional leaders demonstrate sustained—not just one-time or periodic—support for promoting an ongoing culture of assessment and for efforts to improve teaching.						
2	Clear statements of expected learning outcomes at the institutional, unit, program, and course levels have been developed and have appropriate interrelationships.						
3	Those with a vested interest in the learning outcomes of the institution, program, or curriculum are involved in developing, articulating, and assessing them.						
4	Statements of program-level expected learning outcomes are made available to current and prospective students.	-					
5	Course syllabi include statements of expected learning outcomes.						
6	Targets or benchmarks for determining whether student learning outcomes have been achieved have been established and justified; the justifications demonstrate that the targets are of appropriate college-level rigor and are appropriate given the institution's mission.						
7	Multiple measures of student learning, including direct evidence, have been collected and are of sufficient quality that they can be used with confidence to make appropriate decisions.						
8	The evidence of student learning that has been collected is clearly linked to expected learning outcomes.						
9	Student learning assessment results have been shared in useful forms and discussed with appropriate constituents, including those who can effect change.						
10	Student learning assessment results have been used to improve teaching and by institutional leaders to inform planning and budgeting decisions.						
11	In any areas in which the above are not yet happening, concrete, feasible, and timely plans are in place.						
12	Assessment processes have been reviewed and changes have been made to improve their effectiveness and/or efficiency, as appropriate.						
13	There is sufficient engagement, momentum, and simplicity in current assessment practices to provide assurance that assessment processes will be sustained indefinitely.						

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Four Steps (from the May 14 presentation, available on request)

- 1. <u>Syllabi:</u> Collect syllabi for all courses. Include learning goals. Provide departmental feedback to instructors.
- 2. <u>Task(s)</u>: By December, select a task of importance to the department, where assessment is required. Close the loop by December 2010.
- 3. <u>Collect Student Work:</u> From selected classes, collect examples of good, mediocre, and poor work that can be examined by the department, to demonstrate rigor and to assess if learning goals are being met.
- 4. <u>Assessment Plan</u>: By December, develop learning goals for the program, and an associated assessment plan showing how performance can be monitored for each goal.

Learning Outcomes (Goals)

Blue slides are from the *International Symposium on Implementing Learning Outcomes,* Dr. Declan Kennedy presentation:

http://www.ctlul.eu/assets/documents/Learning Outcomes/DKenndey-Presentation.pdf

Working Definition

Learning outcomes are statements of what a student should know, understand or be able to do at the end of a learning activity.

- The learning activity could be, for example, a lecture, a module or an entire programme.
- Learning outcomes must not simply be a "wish list" of what a student is capable of doing on completion of the learning activity.
- Learning outcomes must be simply and clearly described.
- Learning outcomes must be capable of being validly assessed.

Bloom (1956) proposed that knowing is composed of six successive levels arranged in a hierarchy.

6. Evaluation

5. Synthesis

4.Analysis

3. Application

2. Comprehension

1. Knowledge



Examples: Knowledge

- Recall genetics terminology: homozygous, heterozygous, phenotype, genotype, homologous chromosome pair, etc.
- Identify and consider ethical implications of scientific investigations.
- Describe how and why laws change and the consequences of such changes on society.
- List the criteria to be taken into account when caring for a patient with tuberculosis.
- Define what behaviours constitute unprofessional practice in the solicitor – client relationship.
- Describe the processes used in engineering when preparing a design brief for a client.

Examples: Comprehension

- Differentiate between civil and criminal law
- Identify participants and goals in the development of electronic commerce.
- Predict the genotype of cells that undergo meiosis and mitosis.
- Explain the social, economic and political effects of World War I on the post-war world.
- Classify reactions as exothermic and endothermic.
- Recognise the forces discouraging the growth of the educational system in Ireland in the 19th century.

Learning Goals (Physics 243 – Schwarz)

Students will develop a fundamental understanding of how the statistics of large systems impacts the behavior of materials, and in so doing will become comfortable with the concept of entropy.

Students will gain experience with numerous high level problems requiring multiple step solutions, and will be able to use Excel or comparable tools to perform calculations and present results graphically.

Students will apply concepts to numerous disciplines, including chemistry, geology, meteorology, astrophysics, information theory, energy storage and production, and automotive technology.

Students will apply concepts from several branches of physics, including mechanics, electromagnetism, quantum mechanics, and condensed matter physics.

Students will gain experience with the mathematics of statistics and thermodynamics, including facility with partial differential equations, and integration and differentiation of complex exponential functions.

Students will be prepared for all questions relating to thermal physics on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). A prior GRE exam will be reviewed.

Students will gain experience in presenting their homework solutions to the class.

Linda Suskie (Middle States) asks if evidence can be produced to show that students:

- recall key content.
- understand key concepts.
- are able to extend knowledge to situations.
- are able to proceed to a higher level.
- know where to look for more information.
- can describe importance of material.

Selected Learning Goals of Temple University's 2008 General Education Curriculum

Quantitative Literacy

- Be familiar with quantitative models that describe real world phenomena and recognize limitations of those models.
- Perform simple mathematical computations associated with a quantitative model and make conclusions based on the results.
- Appreciate mathematical thinking as an important tool for solving a large number of problems that are part of everyday life.

Arts

- Experience and respond to a work of art or creative process.
- Recognize or interpret a work of art or creative process in its social, historical and cultural context.
- Describe or evaluate a work of art or creative process using appropriate terminology.
- Appreciate the value of art in our lives and in society.

Race and Diversity

- Understand the relationships among diversity, justice and power.
- Investigate the various forms race and racism have taken in different places and times.
- Discuss race matters with diverse others in relation to personal experience.

U.S. Society

- Interpret historical, analytical and cultural materials, and articulate one's own point of view about those materials.
- Develop observations and conclusions about selected themes in U.S. society and culture.
- Analyze the ways difference and heterogeneity have shaped the culture and society of the U.S.

World Society

- Understand the influences (e.g., political, social, historical, cultural, artistic, literary, geographic, economic) on world societies or processes (e.g., globalization) linking world societies.
- Develop observations and conclusions about selected themes in world societies and cultures.
- Construct interpretations using evidence and critical analysis.
- Communicate and defend interpretations.

Benefits of Learning Outcomes:

- 1. Helps students set their own learning goals.
- 2. Helps departments design, assess, and improve curriculum.
- 3. Helps College, CUNY, Middle States in evaluation.

Possible Dangers:

- 1. Instructors will teach to the task, not innovate.
- 2. Poor learning outcomes could produce poor results.
- 3. Deviation from stated goals could dismay students.
- 4. Overambitious goals imply excess effort in assessment.

Assessing Learning Goals

(this page, from Linda Suskie, is in the handout) C = evidence suitable for course-level as well as program-level student learning

Direct (Clear and Compelling) Evidence of What Students Are Learning

- Ratings of student skills by field experience supervisors
- Scores and pass rates on appropriate licensure/ certification exams (e.g., Praxis, NLN) or other published tests (e.g., Major Field Tests) that assess key learning outcomes
- "Capstone" experiences such as research projects, presentations, theses, dissertations, oral defenses, exhibitions, or performances, scored using a rubric
- Other written work, performances, or presentations, scored using a rubric (C)
- Portfolios of student work (C)
- Scores on locally-designed multiple choice and/or essay tests such as final examinations in key courses, qualifying examinations, and comprehensive examinations, accompanied by test "blueprints" describing what the tests assess (C)
- Score gains between entry and exit on published or local tests or writing samples (C)
- Employer ratings of employee skills
- Observations of student behavior (e.g., presentations, group discussions), undertaken and with notes recorded systematically
- Summaries/analyses of electronic discussion threads (C)
- "Think-alouds" (C)
- Classroom response systems (clickers) (C)
- Knowledge maps (C)
- Feedback from computer simulated tasks (e.g., information on patterns of actions, decisions, branches) (C)
- Student reflections on their values, attitudes and beliefs, if developing those are intended outcomes of the course or program (C)

Indirect Evidence of Student Learning (Signs that Students Are Probably Learaing, But Exactly What or How Much They Are Learning is Less Clear)

- Course grades (C)
- Assignment grades, if not accompanied by a rubric or scoring guide (C)
- For four-year programs, admission rates into graduate programs and graduation rates from those programs
- For two-year programs, admission rates into four-year institutions and graduation rates from those institutions
- Quality/reputation of graduate and four-year programs into which alumni are accepted
- Placement rates of graduates into appropriate career positions and starting salaries
- Alumni perceptions of their career responsibilities and satisfaction
- Student ratings of their knowledge and skills and reflections on what they have learned in the course or program (C)
- Questions on end-of-course student evaluation forms that ask about the course rather than the instructor (C)
- Student/alumni satisfaction with their learning, collected through surveys, exit interviews, or focus groups
- Voluntary gifts from alumni and employers
- Student participation rates in faculty research, publications and conference presentations
- Honors, awards, and scholarships earned by students and alumni

Evidence of Learning Processes that Promote Student Learning (Insights into Why Students Are or Aren't Learning)

- Transcripts, catalog descriptions, and course syllabi, analyzed for evidence of course or program coherence, opportunities for active and collaborative learning, etc. (C)
- Logs maintained by students documenting time spent on course work, interactions with faculty and other students, nature and frequency of library use, etc. (C)
- Interviews and focus groups with students, asking why they achieve some learning goals well and others less well (C)
- Many of Angelo and Cross's Classroom Assessment Techniques (C)
- Counts of out-of-class interactions between faculty and students (C)
- Counts of programs that disseminate the program's major learning goals to all students in the program
- Counts of courses whose syllabilist the course's major learning goals
- Counts of courses whose stated learning goals include thinking skills as well as basic understanding
- Documentation of the match between course/program objectives and assessments (C)
- Counts of courses whose final grades are based at least in part on assessments of thinking skills as well as basic understanding
- Ratio of performance assessments to paper-and-pencil tests (C)
- Proportions of class time spent in active learning (C)
- Counts of courses with collaborative learning opportunities
- Counts of courses taught using culturally responsive teaching techniques
- Counts of courses with service learning opportunities, or counts of student hours spent in service learning activities
- Library activity in the program's discipline(s) (e.g., number of books checked out, number of online database searches conducted; number of online journal articles accessed)
- Counts of student majors participating in relevant cocurricular activities (e.g., the percent of Biology majors participating in the Biology Club)
- Voluntary student attendance at disciplinary seminars and conferences and other intellectual/cultural events relevant to a course or program (C)

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Assessing Student Work:

A Descriptive Rubric for a Slide Presentation on Findings from Research Sources

	Well Done (5)	Satisfactory (4-3)	Needs Improvement (2-1)	Incomplete (0)
Organization	Clearly, concisely written. Logi- cal, intuitive progression of ideas & supporting information. Clear & direct cues to all information.	Logical progression of ideas & supporting in- formation. Most cues to information are clear and direct.	Vague in conveying viewpoint and purpose. Some logical pro- gression of ideas & supporting information, but cues are con- fusing or flawed.	Lacks a clear point of view and logical sequence of infor- mation. Cues to information are not evident.
Persuasiveness	Motivating questions & advance organizers convey main idea. Information is accurate.	Includes persuasive in- formation.	Includes persuasive informa- tion with few facts.	Information is incomplete, out of date, and/or incorrect.
Introduction	Presents overall topic. Draws in audience with compelling ques- tions or by relating to audience's interests or goals	Clear, coherent, and related to topic.	Some structure but does not create a sense of what follows. May be overly detailed or in- complete. Somewhat appealing.	Does not orient audience to what will follow.
Clarity	Readable, well-sized fonts. Ital- ics, boldface, and indentations enhance readability. Text is ap- propriate length. Background and colors enhance readability.	Sometimes fonts are readable, but in a few places fonts, italics, boldface, long para- graphs, color, or back- ground detract.	Overall readability is difficult with lengthy paragraphs, too many fonts, dark or busy back- ground, overuse of boldface, or lack of appropriate indenta- tions.	Text is very difficult to read. Long blocks of text, small fonts, inappropriate colors, or poor use of headings, indenta- tions, or boldface.
Layout	Aesthetically pleasing. Contrib- utes to message with appropriate use of headings and white space.	Uses white space appropriately.	Shows some structure but is cluttered, busy or distracting.	Cluttered and confusing. Spacing and headings do not enhance readability.

Adapted with permission from a rubric developed by Patricia Ryan, Lecturer, Department of Reading, Special Education, and Instructional Technology, Towson University

Collecting Student Work:

Examples of student work from key courses (not all courses) allows the department to verify that uniform standards are maintained, to ascertain if there is improvement in student learning in specific areas, and to determine where action is needed.

Student confidentiality must be maintained.

The College is piloting the Epsilen e-portfolio system (<u>www.epsilen.com</u>). This system offers the following capabilities:

- Support for learning matrices and rubrics.
- Group features including wikis, forums, chat, and webpage support
- Personal webpage features including showcase and resume'
- User friendly, with free access for life

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About Me

Lam a professor of Computer and Information Technology, Adjunct Professor of Informatics, and Director of the GyberLab at IUPUL My research focus is on smart learning environment and intelligent agents both from conceptual and technical perspectives. Epsilon Environment is my current R8D project. If would like to Lear your perspectives and comments on the Ensilen. Pease use the QlickNote below to send me a message.

Welcome note in Farsi

سلام به الپوتفلیومن خوش امدید. من استاد معتدسی دانستگاه ایندیانا و پودو. هستم. در حال حاصر برای دی سال برای کمپتین بحثیم کار میکونم.

About me in Chinese

我是却第安那大学-若渡大学和常安那波和斯计算机与信息技术系教授、客 记塔兼职教授、计算机虚拟实验室主任(Cyber at)。我的研究兴趣是从概 念和技术维度研究和开发智能学习环境与人工智能、Eosilan Environment 是我 目前的研发项目。我真诚地欢迎各位为Epciler.各个方面的评论和建议。请使 用下面的快速智言(Quick Note)给我发送消息。 My next talk...

My next talk...

Events: Dialogue Spaces Luncheon Seriesy January 30, 2009: Dr. Ali Jafari

Dialogue Stares are interfeded to offer TUEUI translational scholars an opportunity to talk with audiences about their work in an intermal setting. It crowdes a forum for faculty members, students, and community partners wire similar interfects to dialogue about translating evidence-cased research into cractices that influence everyday fig. If you have questions, please contact Suphan Vielnwer, at swishwert@upuled. For more information please visit http://trini.puledu/exents/ haran-1-00-09.html

TRIP Dialogue Space Lunch Date Friday, January 01, 2005 Lime: 12 notific 10, pm. Place Campus Center Room 148 What: Featuring Faculty Meniber Ali Jafari

Most recent book





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Examples of tasks leading to evidence-based change:

- Effectiveness of department's tutoring effort (leading to adjustment)
- Improve performance on content specialty tests (Div. of Ed.)
- Effectiveness of a hybrid or on-line course
- Review of stored final exams to support new approach in a course
- Impact of field trips on learning
- Impact of online HW grading services on learning
- Impact of clicker use
- Surveys of students or alumni to inform a change in curriculum
- Impact of recruiting efforts on diversity
- Webpage effectiveness
- Capstones, colloquia, student clubs, advising, writing, etc.

Assessment Plans and Tasks:

Plans should be short and to the point. Rubrics are acceptable (see 5/14 document).

For each learning goal, describe the evidence that will be collected and examined.

Describe who will do the work of collection and evaluation.

Describe how activities will be documented.

If there are a significant number of W sections in the department, include a learning goal or goals addressing writing in the discipline.

Indicate that the plan has been approved by the department or relevant committee and on which date. It is expected that plans will be frequently revised.

Attach to the plan a short description of the assessment task selected for the coming year, and how the task will be accomplished.

Suggestions:

Consult the Strategic Plan for Queens College.

Consult the prior self-study, and prepare for the next.

Develop an electronic repository for syllabi and student work.

Design a process that can remain in place.

Consult with the Outcomes Assessment Committee members from your division.

Meg McAuliffe is a resource for surveys.

Feel free to contact Steve Schwarz with questions and concerns.