

Gathering Evidence of Student Learning

University Days, January 2008

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Planning and Assessment

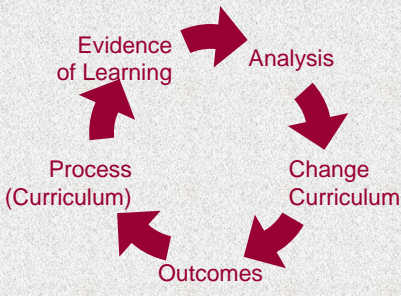
Purpose of Session

Improve assessment . . . in order to . . .

- Improve learning
- Better prepare students for life & career
- Prepare University for Middle States visit

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Learning Assessment



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Middle States Expectations

Effective assessment processes are

- useful,
- cost-effective,
- reasonably accurate and truthful,
- carefully planned, and
- organized, systematic, and sustained.

Assessing Student Learning and Institutional Effectiveness: Understanding Middle States Expectations, p. 4

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Begins with Learning Outcomes

- Describe observable *student behaviors*
- *Students* as grammatical subject
- Strong, specific, behavioral *verbs*
- Clear to intelligent outsiders
- Describe results, not process to get there
- Consider discipline, curriculum, existing evidence

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An Assessment Plan

- Gather evidence of student learning
- Use multiple measures for each outcome
- Faculty evaluate student work for learning
- Share analysis of evidence
- Use information to make changes to improve learning in the future

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Where Can You Find Evidence?

- Course assignments
- Capstone projects (& pseudo-capstones)
- Celebration of Scholarship
- Field experiences and internships
- Portfolios

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More Challenging Places to Look

- External testing
- Graduating student surveys
- Alum surveys
- Employer surveys

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Better Evidence Gathering

- You use existing artifacts
- Student work is integral to curriculum
- Students have reason to want to do well
- You measure what you want measured
- You start small

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Strategies for Easier Assessment

- Capture evidence you already have
- Gather assessment data as you grade
See, e.g. Walvoord & Anderson, *Effective Grading: A Tool for Learning and Assessment* (Jossey-Bass, 1998)
- Use student or clerical help to collate data
- Use "quick-and-dirty"
- Use a sample
- Gather evidence from group projects
- Look outside the classroom

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Finally . . .

- I'd love to talk with you / your department
jmeeke@lhup.edu or ext. 3000
- Resources at
www.lhup/planning-and-assessment/index.htm
- Questions or comments?

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