WEAVEonline & Assessment Training

April 15 (9:00 am)
April 16 (1:00 pm)

Office of Institutional Assessment
The Purpose of...

**assessment**

is to

**INCREASE**

quality.

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**evaluation**

is to **JUDGE**

quality.

Too short and not enough leaves. C-
Agenda

WEAVE & Assessment Training

• Office of Institutional Assessment
• Assessment Plans and Process: The Essentials
  – What these plans do
  – Why they’re important
  – Glossary
  – Cycle of assessment
  – Recommendations for making your assessment plans work for you
• Assessment Platform: WEAVEonline Overview
• Using WEAVEonline: Hands-on Workshop
Office of Institutional Assessment

- **Office of Institutional Assessment**
  - Work with divisions and departments in providing support and guidance in the development of the accreditation reports and annual assessment reports
  - Collect, analyze, and distribute meaningful data (various reporting entities)

- **University Assessment Council**
  - Provides assistance and consultation in formulating assessment plans
  - Annually reviews assessment documents submitted and provides feedback for improvement purposes
  - Provides an annual report to the President, Provost, and University council describing strengths and weaknesses of the University’s overall effort in assessment
Assessment Plans

What do they do?

• Assessment Plans allow units to:
  – Identify **what you plan to accomplish** in a given year (Goals and Outcomes),
  – Determine **how you intend to accomplish** these goals (Measures),
  – **Track** how well you did (Findings), and
  – **Build a plan** for improvement (Action Plans).

• Assessment Plans show **progress**! Assessment Plans are your time to **Share Your Successes**!
Assessment Plans
Why is assessment important?

- Promote **quality** learning environments
- Emphasize **results** or outcomes
- See the **whole** experience
- Focus is on the **student**
- Provides consistent, continual **feedback**
- Provides opportunities for **revision**
- **Aligns** activities around the mission
Assessment Plans
Why? Because SACS!

• SACSCOC
  – UL Lafayette is required to highlight the assessment plans for academic and non-academic units
  – Assessment plans tell the story about how students successfully navigate this university, in and out of the classroom
  – The process of assessment allows units to document the evidence of resources, outcomes, and actions as a cycle of continuous improvement.

• S.A.C.S.
  – “Students Are Central to Success” – Dr. Belle Wheelan, President of SACSCOC
  – Responsible for providing credible evidence to the general public about how our students are central to the university’s success, and how their success is measured within UL Lafayette.
Glossary

- **Mission**: highest aims, intentions, and activities of the entity, purpose
- **Goals**: broad statement about desired ends
- **Objective**: active-verb description of a desired end result related to the entity mission – can be assessed!
- **Measure**: method to gauge achievement of desired result
- **Findings**: assessment results for comparison of actual vs. expected achievement level
- **Achievement Target**: overall level for satisfactory performance on a Measure-Outcome/Objective combination
- **Action Plan**: activity sequence designed to help entity better accomplish intended outcomes/objectives
- **Cycle**: span of time for a single assessment sequence

Source: WEAVEonline Glossary (Help Menu)
Assessment Plans
Cycles of Assessment

Mission Strategic Plan → Identify Goals and Outcomes / Objectives

Devise Measures and link each Measure to an existing Outcome

If not “Met”, establish Action Plans for success in next cycle

Continuous Quality Improvement

How did you do? Determine whether each Measure and Target are “Met”

Identify Targets for each Measure

Start of new cycle

Closing the loop (end of current cycle / beginning of next cycle)
Assessment Plans
Cycles of Assessment

The “start” of an assessment cycle

- Reflect on the **goals and outcomes / objectives** of the unit, revise or write new if necessary
- Strive for **3-6 outcomes** annually
  - Caution! If you carry over the same outcomes annually, be sure to check relevancy to what the current goals are.
- Outcomes should tell a **“big picture”** story of what will be accomplished that year.
  - How does your unit contribute to the student experience?
  - How do the goals and outcomes help achieve the university’s mission and strategic plan?
- From the outcomes, determine measures and targets – the specific ways you will be able to **demonstrate that specific outcomes are met**.
  - At least one measure for each outcome.

Be specific, measurable & meaningful
Assessment Plans
Cycles of Assessment

Throughout the cycle

- **Assess Findings.** Ask “How are we doing?” a few times a year (not just at the end of the cycle).
- **Gather data** (reports, surveys, grades, etc.) to support your targets and measures, and input it in WEAVEonline as it is obtained.
- Begin to **reflect** on the next cycle:
  - What’s working? What can be improved? For example: *Did the survey capture (or not) key elements that can help us make better decisions next time?*

Gather tangible evidence and data
Assessment Plans
Cycles of Assessment

At the End of the Cycle

- **Track your progress** for each target and measure
- For all “not met” targets, write an **action plan** for how to improve actions and meet that target in the next cycle
- For all “met” targets, capture what worked about the process and what will be done going forward.
- **Close the loop!**
  - Use this information to develop new or update existing outcomes / objectives, measures, and targets.

If not “Met”, establish Action Plans for success in next cycle

Identify Targets for each Measure

Identify Measures and link each Measure to an existing Outcome

How did you do? Determine whether each Measure and Target are “Met”

Identify Goals and Outcomes / Objectives

Office of Institutional Assessment
Assessment Plans

Final Tips

**Assessment must work for your unit**

- The goals and objectives you’ve created should drive decisions and actions in your unit
- Assess what matters most to you! (Hint: check out your website)
- Take simple steps
- Innovate based on results
  - If you’re not making changes based on last year’s results, then the plan isn’t working.
  - If each outcome is always “met”, then challenge your unit to set a higher standard.
- How good is “good enough”?
  - Do research prior to choosing benchmarks
  - Set standards
  - Set targets and express them as percentages (measurable)
Write expected outcomes / objectives

Grounded in mission, statements that accurately convey educational intentions form the foundation for student learning and service excellence. These outcomes / objectives express your commitment.

Establish criteria for success

Endeavors are generally more successful if all those involved reach agreement about a level of performance that is acceptable. From such discussions, your educational efforts will gain coherence and vigor.

Assess performance against criteria

It is not enough to state intentions and establish standards for satisfactory work. Implementing assessment approaches will let you learn if what you are doing is really working to produce what you want.

View assessment results

Quality assurance and quality enhancement come together here. A careful review of assessment results shows where you meet or exceed your criteria and where you have the greatest opportunities to improve.

Effect improvements through actions

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WEAVEonline Overview

https://app.weaveonline.com/louisiana/login.aspx

Local News

> The UL Lafayette WEAVEonline 2014-2015 Cycle is now open and ready for input. By now, all Findings and Action Plans from 2013-2014 should be entered. If you have not completed this step, please be sure to do so before proceeding with the timeline below. The following timeline has been created to guide you through the assessment process:

- By April 1, 2015: Enter 2014-15 Objectives, Measures and Targets in the current cycle.
- April 15 (9:00-11:00): WEAVEonline training session (Moody Hall, room 106)
- April 16 (1:00-3:00): WEAVEonline training session (Moody Hall, room 106)

> Meet Your New Director of Institutional Assessment!

Alise Hagan joined the Office of Institutional Assessment in January 2015. In this capacity she is available to work directly with your department or unit to develop and review assessment plans. If you have a question about WEAVEonline, writing or updating assessment plans, etc., she is available to meet!

Office: Martin Hall, room 306A
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WEAVEonline News

> What’s New: Join us at the annual Connections Conference (May 4-6, 2015) at The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center in Blacksburg, VA as we provide a forum on how you can effect change and continuous improvement on your campus. The conference provides opportunities to learn about the
WEAVEonline Overview

WEAVEonline features:
1) Local News (UL-specific)
2) Help
3) Assessment Tab
4) Reports Tab
5) Cycle and Entity Selections

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Thank You for Attending!

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Dr. Jordan Kellman, Dean, College of Liberal Arts