

Sustainability Plan for the HLC Assessment Academy

July 2014

Updated April 2015 by University Assessment Services (updates in red font)

Results Forum Mentor: Sue Pieper, Northern Arizona University
Assessment Academy Mentors: Patricia Brewer & Gloria Rogers, HLC Senior Scholars

Background

In June 2014, three representatives from Illinois State University attended the HLC Results Forum. The Results Forum was the culmination of three years of work with the Assessment Academy. Additionally, participation in the Assessment Academy fulfilled the institutional requirement as a Pathways Pioneer institution. Two projects fulfilled the quality initiative component of the Open Pathway to accreditation:

1. Student learning outcome plans to improve learning in all degree programs (Program Assessment)
2. Strategic assessment of student learning in general education (General Education Assessment)

Over the course of the three-day Results Forum, institutions developed a sustainability plan. The plan includes six goals for sustaining progress made through participation in the assessment academy. Ideas to explore and implement are discussed under each goal.

Sustainability Goals

1. Review PRAAP¹ and Program Review processes

- Include a questionnaire with annual update for assessment
- Tie annual assessment update to academic profiles
- Explore possibility of using specialized accreditation reports for annual updates or program review
- Explore changing the annual update timeline for better coordination with academic profiles and streamlining of practices. For example, skip the fall 2014 annual assessment update, release academic profile data in October 2014, and have academic profiles and annual updates both submitted by April 1, 2015.

April 2015 Update: All of these activities have been implemented. Although specialized accreditation reports are not an exclusive replacement for annual updates or assessment plans, UAS staff strongly encourage programs to rely heavily on the specialized accreditation reports, updates, and data.

¹ Process for the Review of Academic Assessment Plans.

2. Complete preparation for HLC re-accreditation.

- HLC accreditation workshop in April 2014 for deans, chairs, and other administrators.
- Complete federal compliance document by August 2014.

April 2015 Update: All of these activities have been completed.

3. Merge Academy Team with Assessment Advisory Council (AAC)

- Create a professional development/mentoring team. A group of mentors and a mentoring team needs to be identified. After training, the mentoring team could be responsible for guiding programs through program review and assessment. The mentors could then serve as resources in academic units.
- Review AAC charge, membership, and reporting lines.

April 2015 Update: Upon further discussion on campus and in consultation with campus leaders, we decided not to merge members of the Academy Team with the AAC. There were several reasons for this decision. First, AAC membership is well-represented and stable. Second, a professor has served for many years on the AAC and the Academy Team, bringing experience and expertise to the group. Third, it was felt that our list of contacts collected through the survey as part of the annual update process would suffice in terms of assessment contacts with UAS and as leaders in their academic programs.

4. Change Existing Outcomes Survey processes

- Develop a framework for a campus-wide alumni outcomes survey from a “top-down” to a “unit-up” approach.
- Review campus-wide alumni, graduate, and exit survey requirements at state, federal, and accreditation levels.
- Explore the feasibility of IDES collaboration for graduate information (salary, labor market, etc.)
- Coordinate with units in graduate and alumni surveys, particularly with the Graduate College.
- Implement exit surveys across campus and coordinate with other outcomes surveys.

April 2015 Update: Progress has been made in terms of the IDES project. As of April 17, 2015, UAS staff and the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) have an agreed upon budget and research methodology. A shared data agreement is currently being negotiated and the project is under current review by the ISU institutional review board (IRB). Data could be available by Summer 2015.

UAS and the AAC are continuing to review the alumni survey. A challenge is devising a survey that is focused on institution-level outcomes, while at the same time making the questions and data relevant at the program-level. This is a continuing and ongoing discussion at the AAC.

Once the labor market outcome data is available as part of the IDES project, the alumni survey will be revisited by UAS and the AAC. With labor market and salary outcomes available through the IDES project, and due to the alumni survey no longer part of the Illinois Board of Higher Education's (IBHE) policy compliance agenda, it might be a good time to examine other alumni outcomes frameworks (for example, the Gallup-Purdue economic well-being index).

A campus committee is currently reviewing the feasibility of an institutional exit survey.

5. Continue to incorporate professional development activities into assessment processes

- Complete move to the Center for Teaching, Learning, & Technology (CTLT) building
- Develop two fall workshops. The fall workshops would hope to address some of the issues discovered through the assessment survey of chairpersons and assessment audit of academic assessment plans.²
 - o An "Assessment 101" presentation³ would provide an introduction to assessment and training in assessment principles, including how to write learning outcomes, how to do curriculum mapping, how to develop an assessment plan, how to articulate the use of results, or using results in decision-making, to name a few.
 - o Professional development for new and early career faculty in late September.
- Implement a symposium focused on student learning outcomes. The symposium could occur in early spring, preferably February. Some of the coordinating efforts and format ideas could be conducted by the AAC.
- See also the mentoring team project (goal 1).

April 2015 Update: UAS completed the move to the CTLT building in January 2015. This academic year, UAS completed two workshops series, for a total of seven sessions:

Series 1: Refining Your Assessment Plan (Fall 2014)

This series focused on the four elements of the PRAAP rubric, and included four sessions:

1. Writing goals and learning outcomes
2. Direct evidence of student learning
3. Indirect evidence of student learning
4. Use of the results

² More information on these projects are included in the Impact Report: <http://assessment.illinoisstate.edu/HLC-Academy-Impact-Report-5-1-2014-Illinois-State-Univ.pdf>

³ Examples from previous UAS workshops here: <http://assessment.illinoisstate.edu/about/workshops/>



Series 2: Assessment Toolbox (Spring 2015)

This series focused assessment tools and strategies. There were three sessions:

1. Writing survey questions
2. Creating and using rubrics
3. Curriculum mapping

The sessions and related materials were uploaded to the UAS website:

<http://assessment.illinoisstate.edu/about/workshops/>

UAS also worked with web services in re-designing the on-line assessment tutorial. The tutorial is now organized around the four elements of the PRAAP rubric. It is online here:

<http://assessment.illinoisstate.edu/tutorial/>

UAS is continuing to explore the idea of a student learning symposium. In lieu of this, UAS has held several professional development sessions (in addition to the workshops listed above). A sampling include:

- March 29, 2013: Overcoming Obstacles for Meaningful Assessment, workshop and panel for chairs
- May 14, 2014: presentation at general education workshop (CTLT)
- January 2015: presentation at the CTLT teaching and learning symposium about the NSSE/FSSE results
- January 20, 2015: Discussion of the FSSE/NSSE results at the CTLT teaching-excellence series, session 1: Completing Perceptions of Interaction
- February 17, 2015: presentation to AAC about the NSSE/FSSE results

6. Continue to implement general education assessment

- Set up monthly meetings with the associate provost to keep communication lines open.
- Compile review data from spring 2014 assessment pilot.
- Complete LEAP or modified LEAP rubrics by faculty panels.
- Implement 2014-15 panels with report submitted for fall 2015.
- Continue attendance at CGE meetings by UAS staff.

April 2015 Update: Meeting with Jon on 4/17/2015

More Information and Web Links

- PRAAP: <http://assessment.illinoisstate.edu/program/>
- Program Review: <http://provost.illinoisstate.edu/academic/program-review.shtml>
- HLC Assessment Academy Impact Report (under Reports & Goals): <http://assessment.illinoisstate.edu/>

Notes from the HLC Results Forum

Alumni outcomes

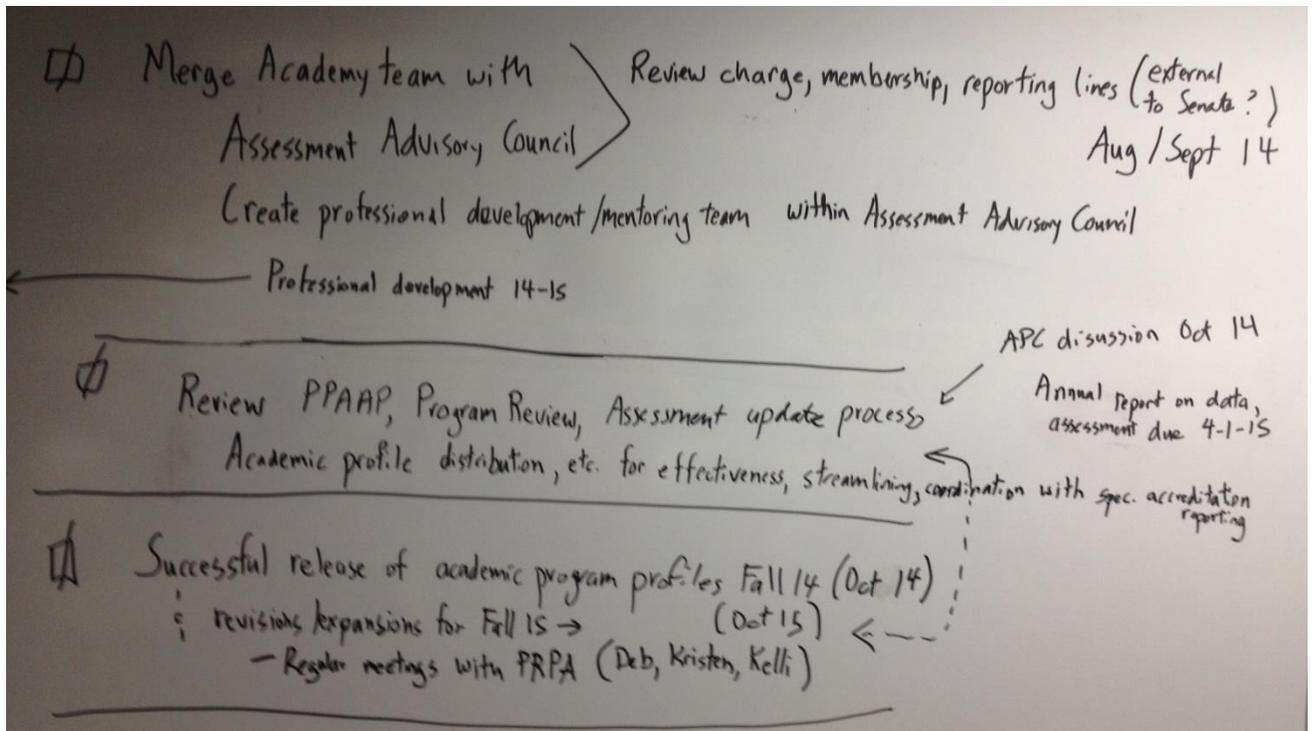
- Exit surveys across units - work with deans/chairs) Jon & Jim
- Develop framework for campus-wide alumni outcomes survey) coordinate
from top-down to unit-up
- Review campus-wide alumni survey requirements (state) Ryan/Derek
- Explore feasibility of MES collaboration
for systematic, ongoing collection of alumni employment, salary data) Ryan
- Coordinate with Graduate School re graduate survey initiative - Bruce/Jim

HLC - April 14 accreditation workshop for deans, chairs, administrators - Complete Fed compliance doc by Aug 14

Implement Gen. Ed assessment yr 1

- Council on Gen Ed attendance
- Monthly coordinating meetings w/ Assoc Provost UG Education
- Writing Across Curriculum?

- Compile review data from Spr 14 assessment pilot
- Complete rubrics for all panels
- Implement 14-15 panels with report submitted fall 15



- ☐ Mentoring PRAAP, etc. [training for mentors]
- ☐ Professional development workshops
 Fall 14
 - 1) assessment coordinators + 1-2 fac. per unit
 - 2) early career faculty training
- ☐ Spring 15 "Improving Student Learning using assessment data"
- ☐ Recognition - awards Spring 15