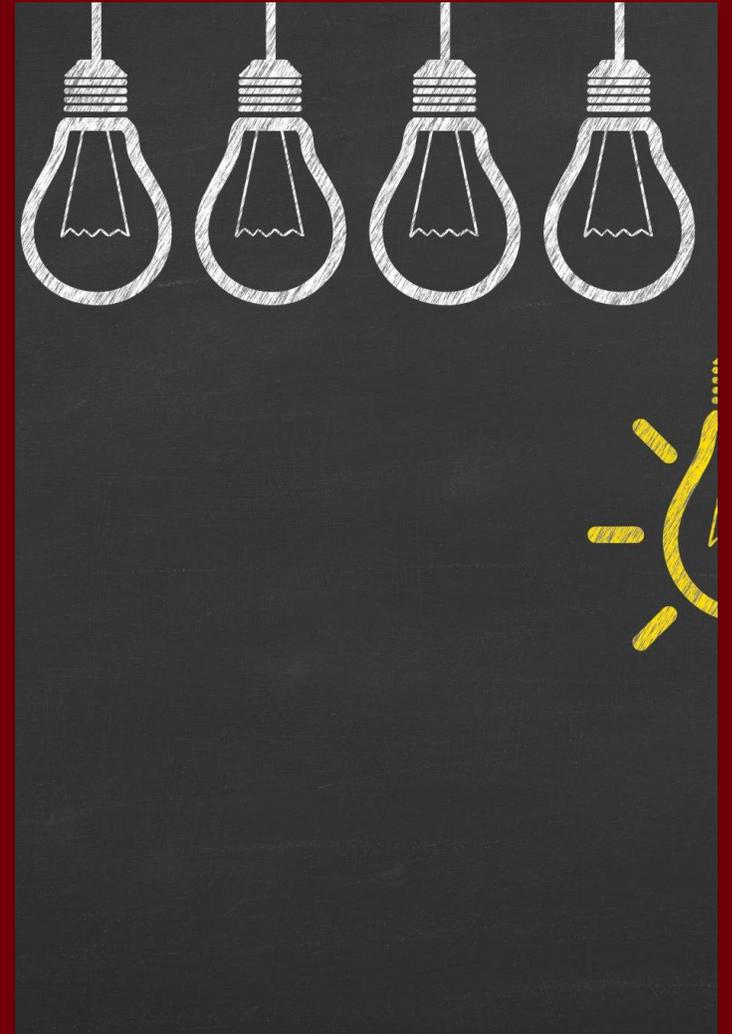# Assessment of Student Learning

New Chair Training

July 27, 2020

Session Goals

- Philosophy of Assessment
- Common Language
- Assessment Cycle
- Nuts and Bolts

...the **systematic collection, review, and use of information** undertaken for the purpose of **improving** student learning and development.

The **use** of assessment data should emerge out of a desire to know more about and **improve the quality and effectiveness** of higher education.

Banta & Palomba (2016)

Assessment

At the heart of SACSCOC's philosophy of accreditation, the concept of quality enhancement assumes that each member institution is engaged in ongoing improvement of its programs and services and can demonstrate how well it fulfills its stated mission.

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)

8.2 The institution identifies expected outcomes, assesses the extent to which it achieves these outcomes, and provides evidence of seeking improvement based on analysis of the results in the areas below:

a. student learning outcomes for each of its educational programs

SACSCOC Standards for Accreditation

Student Learning Outcomes

- Describe what a student can demonstrate upon completing an experience
- Represent knowledge, skills, behaviors, and attitudes

Course Learning Outcomes	• Learning outcomes for a specific course
Program Learning Outcomes	• Learning outcomes for an academic program (i.e., major, minor, certificate)
Good outcomes	• Are assessible • Reflect the values/mission of your department

"

Assessment should be meaningful, manageable, and measurable
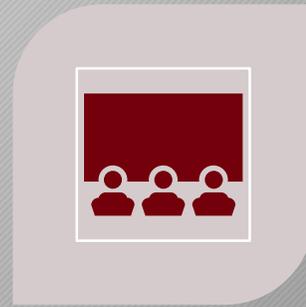
"

Bresciani, Gardner, & Hickmott (2009)

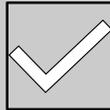# Complete Cycle of Assessment

PLAN

DO

CHECK

ACT

Complete Cycle of Assessment

Collect evidence of student learning

Analyze and Interpret

Plan Changes

Implement Changes

Report Effect of Changes

Good News

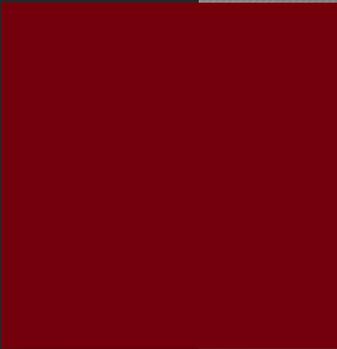The university does not tell you how to do this work

Maximum flexibility

Bad News (maybe)

The university does not tell you how to do this work

Too many choices

Documenting Assessment at Elon

Each Degree Program

PLAN FOR STUDENT LEARNING ASSESSMENT (PSLA)

ANNUAL REPORT OF ASSESSMENT PROGRESS (ARAP)

Program Mission Statement

Program Learning Outcomes

Course/Outcome Map

Outcome Reporting Schedule

Plan for Student Learning Assessment (PSLA)

Plan for Student Learning Assessment (PSLA)

- Program Mission Statement
- Intended Learning Outcomes
- Course/Outcome Map
- Outcome Reporting Schedule

The outcome reporting schedule describes which outcomes are reported in a given year.

All outcomes must be reporting on in an ongoing basis so that within a reasonable timeframe (~5 years) all outcomes have been measured at least once.

Annual Report of Assessment Progress (ARAP)

- Update on Prior Year Results
- Indicate Outcome for Current Year
- Describe Measurement Strategy
- Summarize Results
- Describe planned changes
- Identify Outcome for Next Year

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Considered to be closing the loop on the assessment cycle

- Address the status of planned changes
- If the outcome has been remeasured indicate the effect on student performance
- If the outcome has not been remeasured indicate when this will happen

Annual Report of Assessment Progress (ARAP)

- Update on Prior Year Results
- Indicate Outcome for Current Year
- Describe Measurement Strategy
- Summarize Results
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Source: PSLA Outcome Reporting Schedule

Annual Report of Assessment Progress (ARAP)

- Update on Prior Year Results
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Identify the task/assignment used as evidence of student achievement relative to the outcome

- Describe which students will complete the task.
- Describe the context for the task (e.g.,in/out of class)
- Describe your scoring strategy
- Attach assignment and scoring tool if you are using one

Annual Report of Assessment Progress (ARAP)

- Update on Prior Year Results
- Indicate Outcome for Current Year
- Describe Measurement Strategy
- Summarize Results
- Describe planned changes
- Identify Outcome for Next Year

Present a brief summary of student performance.

Can be quantitative or qualitative

No identifiable information

Annual Report of Assessment Progress (ARAP)

- Update on Prior Year Results
- Indicate Outcome for Current Year
- Describe Measurement Strategy
- Summarize Results
- Describe Planned Changes
- Identify Outcome for Next Year

What actions do you plan to implement as a consequence of the results (aka *Use of Results*)?

- Who participated in the discussion?
- What will you do?
- When will you implement changes?
- Resources needed to implement changes

Occasionally Asked Questions

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Deadlines?

Occasionally Asked Questions

Deadlines?

How do I submit our ARAP?

Occasionally Asked Questions

Deadlines?

How do I submit our ARAP?

How do I know what to assess each year?

Occasionally Asked Questions

Deadlines?

How do I submit our ARAP?

How do I know what to assess each year?

Do I have to follow our plan?

Occasionally Asked Questions

Deadlines?

How do we submit our ARAP?

How do we know what to assess each year?

Do we have to follow our plan?

Does that mean we can assess whatever we like?

Managing Assessment for Your Program

- Make it a shared activity
- Add assessment to your department meeting agenda regularly
- Make sure everyone who will be directly involved knows what they need to do
- Use resources on campus (OIRA, CATL, TLT)

Questions?

Kimberly Fath

Institutional Research & Assessment

kfath@elon.edu