



ASSESSMENT UPDATE

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CASL Members

Melanie Burns
Janet Cosby
Mary Herrington-Perry
Christy Hooser
Mary Hogg, Chair
Debra Hopgood
Daiva Markelis
Andrew Methven
William Russell
Karla Sanders

Assessment website:
www.eiu.edu/~assess

Important Dates

- **Friday, September 26** from 10:00-noon, Speaking Across the Curriculum Workshop on Designing Speaking Assignments to be held in the 1895 Room, MLK Union.
- Submissions for the Provost's Assessment Awards are due to the VPAA's Office on **Friday, October 10.**
- **Friday, October 31** from 10:00-noon, Speaking Across the Curriculum Workshop on Assessing Student Presentations to be held in the 1895 Room of the MLK Union.

EIU'S SELF STUDY BEGINS

In February 2005, Eastern will be visited by a site team from the North Central Association (NCA), our regional accrediting body, whose last visit took place in 1995.

In preparation for this visit, Eastern has established a Self Study team, which began its work in July with an orientation for committee members. President Hencken and Provost Lord invited Dr. Robert Augustine, Dean of the Graduate School, and Dr. Jill Owen, Professor of Physical Education, to co-chair the Self Study.

Dr. Augustine notes that "The Self Study gives the people of Eastern the opportunity to examine ourselves and our University and to make it even stronger for the coming decade. It is our opportunity to showcase Eastern for the great institution that it is."

NCA describes accreditation as "the assurance to the public that an institution meets clearly stated requirements and

criteria" and that "there are reasonable grounds that it will continue to meet these standards."

With the Self Study, Eastern has the opportunity to chart its progress over the past 10 years, to create a future in which it can continually perform better than in the past, and to remain current and competitive in all aspects of higher education.

The Self Study will include an assessment of the following aspects of the institution: formal educational activities, governance and administration, financial stability, admissions and student personnel services, institutional resources, student academic achievement, institutional effectiveness, and relationships with constituencies inside and outside of the institution.

Spring 2005 marks the first time institutions will be able to be accredited
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MAJOR ASSESSMENT MAKES MAJOR STRIDES

Academic year 2002-2003 marked the fourth year that Eastern's academic departments submitted assessment summaries for their major and minor programs. A total of 91 graduate and undergraduate programs submitted reports (26 at the graduate level and 65 at the undergraduate level).

With each year progress has been made in setting objectives for major and minor programs and in assessing student learning outcomes. Programs at Eastern assess student learning through a variety of direct

and indirect measures. Direct measures of student learning require students to display their knowledge or skills; direct measures include tests, papers, portfolios, presentations, and so forth. Indirect measures ask students to examine their experiences and provide their opinions; indirect measures include surveys, focus groups, and interviews.

Of the undergraduate programs that submitted annual summaries, 39 are using direct measures while 26 are employing
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SELF STUDY CONT.

based on the new criteria established by NCA. The Self Study Steering Committee has been designed around the five new criteria with each criterion having its own subcommittee and chair. The new criteria and the subcommittee chairs are:

Criterion One: Mission and Integrity, chair Dr. Reed Benedict, Professor, Sociology and Anthropology

Criterion Two: Preparing for the Future, chair Dr. Cheryl Noll, Professor, School of Business

Criterion Three: Student Learning and Effective Teaching, chair Dr. Shane Miller, Associate Professor, Speech Communication

Criterion Four: Acquisition, Discovery, and Application of Knowledge, chair Dr. Linda Simpson, Associate Professor, School of Family and Consumer Sciences

Criterion Five: Engagement and Service, chair Dr. Linda Morford, Professor, Educational



More information on the Self Study and the criteria may be found at Eastern's web site: www.eiu.edu/~acaffair/NCA/. Members of the Self Study will also be available to speak to departments, committees, or councils.

Steering Committee members are pictured. Back row: Reed Benedict, Linda Morford, Shane Miller, and Linda Simpson. Front row: Cheryl Noll, Bob Augustine, and Jill Owen. Dr. Mary Herrington-Perry will also play an integral part in this process.

MAJOR CONT.

both direct and indirect measures. At the graduate level, 11 programs are employing direct measures solely while 15 programs are using both direct and indirect measures. One of the examples of evidence that can be used to support information in the NCA Self Study is that "assessment of student learning includes multiple direct and indirect measures of student learning" (Higher Learning Commission/NCA). This emphasis on multiple measures indicates the importance of assessing not only student work but also of collecting information from students, alumni,

and employers through surveys, focus groups, and interviews.

Over the years departments have made great strides in establishing learning outcomes and in using multiple measures. At the undergraduate level, 73% of programs are using tests and exams; 68% are using portfolios or other written work; 34% are assessing skills through oral presentations; 31% are employing student teaching or internship evaluations; 37% are using interviews or surveys; and 29% have identified hands-on activities or labs as assessment sites.

At the graduate level, 82% of programs are using a test or exam to assess student learning; 58% are employing papers, a thesis, or portfolio; 31% are using oral presentations; 20% have identified hands-on activities or practica as sites for assessment; 58% are employing surveys or interviews as assessment measures.

Assessment plan summaries, responses, and a list of measures employed by each program are available on the assessment website (www.eiu.edu/~assess); follow the assessment in the major link.