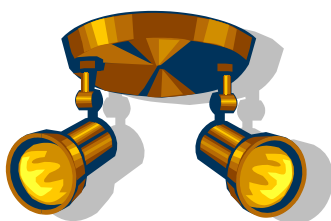




Assessment Times

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Excellence in Assessment application results



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General Education Assessment Coordinator



Ms. Lynn Harbinson joined the Bowie State University staff as an assessment coordinator for the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) in March of 2015. In this position, she worked with CAS faculty and departments on course assessment, academic transformation, and national assessments. Prior to that, Ms. Harbinson worked at the University System of Maryland office for over 11 years, in the areas of grant project management and academic transformation/course design. Prior to that, she worked for the Baltimore City Public School System and University of Maryland, College Park.

In 2018, her original position was updated and changed to the general education assessment coordinator. In this capacity, she works with Dr. Becky Verzinski, Assistant Vice President for Assessment, to work with all Bowie State University faculty on course assessment, with a focus on General Education courses, particularly courses with low passing rates. She is also continuing as a (non-voting) member of the University Student Learning Assessment Committee (USLAC) and the General Education Committee (GEC). She leads the university's efforts with national assessments, including iSkills, Collegiate Learning Assessment, the Standardized Assessment of Information Literacy Skills (SAILS), Proficiency Profile, and two national assessments - WAVES, which is an assessment of critical thinking and writing skills, and HEIghten, which is an assessment of civic engagement/knowledge and intercultural competency.

KUDOS KORNER

Professional Development Award

CAPA Assessment Coordinator Lynn Harbinson was awarded a USM Women's Forum professional development award. The \$250 award is for on-line professional development in modules which help professors work with students to accelerate their learning and to accurately measure that acceleration. This proposal utilizes the "train the trainer" model to share this data-driven, precision teaching technique with General Education course faculty members. The focus is on courses with a significant number of students who need assistance being brought up to college-level performance.

Expert Panel Participation

BSU Assistant Vice President for Assessment, Dr. Becky Verzinski, participated as a member of a panel of experts at the Association for the Assessment of Learning in Higher Education (AALHE) conference in Salt Lake City in 2017. She and the other panelists discussed best practices on how to improve student learning and assessment at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). The AALHE is dedicated to discovering and disseminating ways that academic programs and institutions can productively use assessment data.



On The Horizon:

Bowie State University is gearing up for the Middle States Self-Study which is beginning Fall 2018. This effort will be guided by a Middle-States Steering Committee and will produce a Self-Study report, which will address all standards associated with accreditation.

WAVES National Pilot Study: Critical Thinking & Student Writing

Bowie State University was invited to continue its participation in the WAVES pilot study, which is a national assessment of students' critical thinking and writing skills that started in the summer of 2017. In fall 2017, BSU, along with five other universities (Bloomsburg; California State, Fresno; Jacksonville State; Slippery Rock; and the University of North Carolina, Wilmington), started to assess students in critical thinking and writing, to collect sample writing assignments from students, and administer a writing attitudes survey. BSU focused on freshmen students in English 101 classes. The overall participation in the study by the six universities was as follows:

- ◆ 22 faculty members
- ◆ 8 disciplines (English, History, Sociology, Criminology, Exercise Science, Biology, Business, Enrichment)
- ◆ 417 students (23% participation rate)
- ◆ 512 writing samples

Based on submitted coursework assignments, Bowie State had participation by 106 of the 213 students recruited for a participation rate of almost 50%. California State was next with 36.4% participation, Slippery Rock with 26.1%, Jacksonville State with 19.4%, UNC, Wilmington with 10.5%, and Bloomsburg University with 9.2%:

As a result of this high level of submissions, Bowie State, California State, and Jacksonville State were invited to continue participation in the coming spring semester. BSU is setting a goal to have a participation level of at least 100 students submitting a course assignment by working with the ENGL 101 faculty members in the Department of English and Modern Languages.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
 ★ **If you are planning** ★
 ★ **for a year, sow rice;** ★
 ★ **if you are planning** ★
 ★ **for a decade , plant** ★
 ★ **trees; if you are** ★
 ★ **planning for a** ★
 ★ **lifetime, educate** ★
 ★ **people.”** ★
 ★ **- Chinese Proverb** ★
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Preliminary data from the WAVES study for critical thinking indicates that Bowie State University students have a mean score of 156.8 compared to the comparison group score of 162.2. This is in the middle of the Developing category (150-161), compared to the comparison group, which is in the low end of the Proficient category (162-172). Eighty-five (85%) percent of BSU students scored in the Developing category and 15% scored in the Proficient category versus the comparison group at 48% in the Developing category, 42% in the Proficient category, and 10% in the Advanced category.

Preliminary data from the WAVES study for writing indicates that Bowie State University students have a mean score of 159.7 compared to the comparison group score of 162.9. This is in the high end of the Developing category (150-161), compared to the comparison group, which is in the low end of the Proficient category (162-172). Sixty-six (66%) percent of BSU students scored in the Developing category and 34% in the Proficient category versus the comparison group at 48% in the Developing category, 43% in the Proficient category, and 9% in the Advanced Category.

