



Assessment Times

IN THE SPOTLIGHT~ Drexel Assessment Conference

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Practical Tips from the 2019 Drexel University Assessment Conference

By Art Vidrine, Assistant Professor, Department of Fine and Performing Arts

Every September, Drexel University hosts an annual conference dedicated to assessment practices at institutions of higher learning. The conference offers 50+ concurrent sessions on a variety of assessment topics over three days and draws 350+ attendees. For the second year in a row, a handful of BSU faculty and administrators from the Center for Academic Programs Assessment (CAPA) attended the conference. The participants were asked to identify which assessment practices discussed at the conference they believed to be most useful to them. To foster further a collegial environment of sharing best practices or insights in assessment, a handful of practices highlighted by BSU conference attendees have been briefly summarized below. For more details and insights from the conference, faculty should reach out directly to those mentioned below:

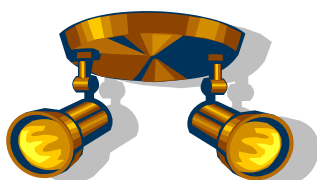
A. Consider non-traditional sources for assessment data. For example, highlighted activities of various offices, departments, and faculty/staff/administrators listed in BSYou (weekly e-newsletter) can provide assessment data. The sources need to be organized and archived for future annual reports and accreditation needs. [Lynn Harbinson]

B. Use curriculum mapping and rubrics as a pedagogical strategy. Curriculum mapping connects learning objectives to learning outcomes across the curriculum in order to assess those learning outcomes against established, measurable standards. For example, a rubric focused on program learning objectives can be used to evaluate Capstone courses. [Emory Perkins]

C. Examine different kinds of assessments to understand their strengths and weaknesses. This will enable faculty to identify the most effective model for assessing a specific program and the student population served. This will also help develop multiple perspectives on student achievement. [Vivian Shannon-Ramsey]

D. For administrative offices (such as CAPA), create a new mission statement and goals for the office. Identify specific strategies for assessing how the office will achieve the mission and goals over the next 5-7 years. Consider having an outside organization or committee (such as the Committee for Assessment of Student Learning & Experience (CAStLE) vet the new mission and goals. [Becky Verzinski]

E. Use discussion posts in Blackboard to require students to provide peer feedback on major assignments (such as papers, presentations, e-portfolios, artworks, etc) . This should be done before due dates so that students have time to incorporate the feedback and improve the work product. Students should be given a rubric and clear criteria on how to provide peer feedback. The professor can assess results by comparing written feedback students are providing in the posts and the improved quality of student work product to the original submission for peer review. [Art Vidrine]



In the next edition:
 Assessment of student research skills results



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Apply by February 16th to Become BSU's 2020 Faculty Assessment Fellow

BSU's Center for Academic Programs Assessment (CAPA) developed the Faculty Assessment Fellow (FAF) program in 2019 as a way to build on and expand its successes in being recognized as a 2018 Excellence in Assessment (EIA) recipient by the National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment (NILOA). Assistant Professor Art Vidrine (Fine and Performing Arts) is the most recent faculty fellow. The fellow conducts assessment activities and develops a database of assessment resources during the summer, attends the Drexel University Assessment Conference in September, and is invited to participate in assessment-related professional development activities and leadership opportunities in his or her department and campus-wide during the academic year.

The deadline for applying for the Faculty Assessment Fellow is February 16, 2020. The stipend for the summer activity is \$9,000. Faculty must have at least three years of experience with assessment. If interested, please contact Ms. Lynn Harbinson at lharbinson@bowiestate.edu

