

Assessment Times

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT~ Drexel Assessment Conference

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, 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]

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



On The Horizon: Key Middle States Self-Study Dates - Beginning January 2020 and going through the end of the summer, there are critical dates/times for deliverable items for the Middle States Self-Study. The Standards Workgroups are working on the items on an ongoing basis, and need the assistance and requested data from faculty and departments, in order to compile the necessary information:

- January 30, 2020 -

- January 30, 2020 -Workgroup Preliminary Findings - March - April 2020 - Spring Open Forum

- May 30, 2020 (tentative date) Workgroup Final Reports

- Summer 2020 - Self-Study Report Editing



BSU Middle States Self-Study Update, Next Steps

The Bowie State University Middle States Self-Study is a time for the university community to tell the story of Bowie State University. Below are some highlights of the Middle States process to date as the university races towards excellence in its reaffirmation journey. This journey began with the Self-Study design phase last academic year (FY19). BSU's Middle States preparation included:

Phase One

- The appointment of the Middle States Executive and Steering committees
- Participation in the MSCHE Self-Study Institute
- Development of a BSU Middle States web page
- Submission of BSU's Self-Study Design

- A successful MSCHE Liaison campus visit.

Phase Two

- The BSU Middle States Executive and Steering committees received a commendation from MSCHE on the university's Self-Study Design.

- BSU's Self-Study Design was showcased as a model of excellence at the 2019 Middle States Self-Study Institute in Philadelphia, PA.

Phase Three

- The Standards-Based workgroup phase (FY20) was marked by the convening of the BSU Executive and Middle States Steering committees. The committees put out a call for volunteers, which yielded 100 faculty, staff, students, and engaged community members.

- The Executive and Steering committees hosted at workgroup kick-off on September 24th. Volunteers were assigned to standard workgroups. These groups immediately set up meeting schedules, and began the very important work of engaging in research and evidence gathering.

- The workgroups started in the fall and are continuing to work collaboratively in the spring to prepare reports that will deliver the answers to the MSCHE questions to ultimately meet the criterion of Middle States Adherence.

Going Forward

There is a great deal of work left to do in the Middle States Self-Study process. Support of faculty, staff, administrators and students is critical in order to provide the data that tells the story of the university. This will ensure that BSU is on the path to a successful MSCHE visit in spring 2021.

More information about the Self-Study and the working groups is located on BSU's Middle States web page at <u>https://bowiestate.edu/about/administration-and-governance/division-of-academic-affairs/2021-middle-states-self-study/</u>.

BSU Middle States Standard Workgroup Co-Chairs

Standard Workgroup Co-Chairs-For more detailed information, contact the relevant Chair(s):

Self-Study Work Group Co-Chairs Requirements of Affiliation-Ms. Maisha Ali - Assistant Registrar, Office of the University Registrar; Ms. Deborah Stanley - Director, Financial Aid Office Standard 1-Mission and Goals-Ms. Shama Akhtar - Director of Institutional Research, Office of Planning, Research and Accountability; Dr. Sean Coleman - Assistant Professor, Educational Studies and Leadership

Standard 2-Ethics and Integrity-Mr. Jerry Isaac - Director, Continuing Education; Dr. Enoch Osei - Assistant Professor, Accounting, Finance and Economics

Standard 3-Design and Delivery of the Student Learning Experience-Dr. David Basena - Department Chair and Professor, Language, Literature & Cultural Studies; Dr. Sunando Sengupta - Professor, Accounting, Finance and Economics

Standard 4-Support of the Student Experience-Dr. Janeula Burt - Assistant Professor, Educational Leadership; Dr. Renee Foose - Associate Professor, Educational Studies and Leadership Standard 5-Educational Effectiveness Assessment-Dr. Tanya Brice - Dean, College of Professional Studies; Dr. Ann Hillard - Assistant Professor, Educational Studies and Leadership Standard 6-Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement-Mr. Michael Atkins -

Assistant Vice President Administration and Finance; Dr. Erica Hernandez - Assistant Professor, Psychology

Standard 7-Governance, Leadership and Administration-Dr. Dorsha Goodman - Coordinator, Academic Advising Center; Dr. Benjamin Arah - Associate Professor, History and Government