Northern Illinois University

Assessment at NIU

BOT Presentation

Chris Parker, Office of Assessment Services (OAS)
Brian Lance, Student Affairs & Enrollment Management (SAEM)
Assessment Goals & Mandates

Goals:
1. Assure high quality academic programs
2. Foster continuous improvement of academic programs and support services

Mandates:
1. Higher Learning Commission
2. Specialized Accreditors (33)
3. IBHE

“Promoting Student Career Success”
HLC Findings – *Then and Now*

2004

“While significant progress has been made in assessment of student achievement at NIU..., much remains to be done.”

2014

“NIU has developed practices and procedures that are developing an institution-wide culture of assessment.”
Breadth of Assessment at NIU

Academic Affairs
• 147 IBHE-approved Degree Programs
• 18 Academic Support Units:
  – Student Engagement, University Honors
  – NIU PLUS, First-Year Composition
• Campus-wide Initiatives:
  – University Writing Project, Alumni Survey

Student Affairs & Enrollment Management
• 20 Departments/Offices
• Campus-wide Initiatives:
  – Student Satisfaction Surveys, Technology Surveys
Examples of Assessment Data

Student Learning Outcomes
• Baccalaureate/PLUS SLOs
• Program/Office SLOs

University Outcomes
• Retention/Persistence
• Student Engagement
• Connection to NIU
• Graduation Rates

Alumni Outcomes
• Employment Rates
• Satisfaction with NIU

Office Outcomes
• Student Satisfaction
• Participation Rates
• Efficiency/Value
A Robust Process of Degree Program Assessment

Frequency

**Yearly**
- Annual Assessment Update
- Report on Student Learning
  - Summary Data
  - Analysis/Interpretation
  - Improvement Actions

**Mid-Cycle**
- Assessment Plan & Status Report
- Revision of Assessment Plan & Implementation Report
- Student Learning Focus

**8-Year Cycle**
- Program Review
- Review of Program Goals and Key Performance Indicators
- Program Improvement
- Office of Assessment Services (OAS) Feedback
- University Assessment Panel (UAP) Feedback
- Academic Planning Council (APC) Feedback
Annual Update
Percent of Programs Meeting Criteria

- Learning Outcomes Specified
- Methods Appropriate
- Evidence Provided
- Use of Results
UWP Written Communication Scores for Freshmen v. Seniors

- Freshmen (n=275)
- Seniors (n=422)

- Developing: 4.7% (Freshmen), 0.7% (Seniors)
- Progressing: 56.4% (Freshmen), 14.4% (Seniors)
- Accomplishing: 37.5% (Freshmen), 70.3% (Seniors)
- Excelling: 1.5% (Freshmen), 14.6% (Seniors)
Annual Alumni Survey
2013 Graduates (N=906)

- Satisfied with Overall Experience at NIU: 4.94
- Satisfied with Degree: 5.02
- Recommend NIU to Prospective Student: 4.98
- NIU Represents a Good Value: 4.81
- Satisfied with Time to Completion: 4.99

Survey indicates high satisfaction across various aspects.
The 8th Annual
NIU ASSESSMENT EXPO

COLLABORATION MATTERS IN ASSESSMENT

Friday, March 20, 2015
8:30am - 12:00pm
HSC Sky Room

The EXPO will showcase outstanding NIU assessment practices from 2013-2014. Each practice will be highlighted in the poster session and round table discussion. Come engage in dialogue about assessment across campus!

For more information contact
the Office of Assessment Services
www.niu.edu/assessment
assess@niu.edu
(815) 753-8659

http://www.niu.edu/assessment/expo
Student Affairs & Enrollment Management

Acting Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs
Michael Stang, Ed.D.

- Campus Child Care
- Campus Recreation
- Counseling & Consultation Services
- Disability Resource Center
- Health Services
- Wellness Promotion

Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management
Vacant

- Admissions
- Orientation & Family Connections
- Scholarship Office
- Student Financial Aid
- Student Information System

Associate Vice President for Student Affairs & Dean of Students
Kelly Wesener Michael, Ed.D.

- Holmes Student Center
- Housing & Dining
- Student Conduct
- Student Involvement & Leadership Development
  - Campus Activities Board
  - Greek Life
  - Leadership Development
  - Program Production
  - Student Association
  - Volunteerism

Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs
Katrina Myers Caldwell, Ph.D.

- Asian American Center
- Career Services
- Gender & Sexuality Resource Center
- Latino Resource Center
- Military & Post Traditional Student Services
  - Center for Black Studies
Annual Planning

2 Priorities/year
- 1 Division Driven
- 1 Department Driven
- Learning Focused

Annual Reporting

Report due in July
- Describe efforts
- What worked?
- What didn’t?
- Plans to improve

5 Year Reviews

Reflective Review
- Reflect on past 5 years
- What went well?
- What didn’t?
- Departmental strategic planning for next 5 years
- Program Prioritization
# Assessment Strategy Grid

## Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management Assessment Strategy Grid

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collaborative Community (CC) Department</th>
<th>FY16 (2015-16) Annual Assessment Activities</th>
<th>FY17 (2016-17) Annual Assessment Activities</th>
<th>FY18 (2017-18) Annual Assessment Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Holmes Student Center</td>
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<td>Housing &amp; Dining</td>
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<tr>
<td>Campus Child Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>OC&amp;NT/Military Stud. Svcs.</td>
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* Departments with Accreditation processes are exempt from Internal/External Review
* As of 6/8/15
* Work with Assessment & Enrollment Analysis to develop an appropriate assessment project
# Assessment Strategy Grid

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Campus Child Care Example

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<tr>
<th>Expected Student Learning Outcome</th>
<th>Department Goal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Must select from each category (Learning Reconsidered &amp; Bacc Goals); Reference Appendix F &amp; G</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cognitive Complexity</td>
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<td>Knowledge Acquisition, Integration &amp; Application</td>
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<td>Humanitarianism</td>
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<td>Civic Engagement</td>
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<td>Inter/Intrapersonal Competence</td>
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<td>Practical Competence</td>
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<td>Persistence &amp; Academic Achievement</td>
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<td>Creativity</td>
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<td>Communication</td>
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<td>Critical Thinking</td>
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<th>Bacc Goals</th>
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<td>CCC intends to initiate a program that is focused on the NIU student experience for students who are connected with Campus Child Care. The intent is to help build their connection with CCC and enhance our ability to support them in the achievement of their goals at NIU.</td>
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<th>Action Steps &amp; Timeline</th>
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<td>1. In an effort to coordinate with our Collaborative Community’s priority to create a caring community for students, CCC is proposing to prepurpose our school-age classroom, transforming it into a study and relaxation space for CCC student workers and parents. A committee of CCC staff and parents, along with a representative from the Office of Student Academic Success will be formed to take on this task. (June - Aug. 2014)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Committee members will name, furnish and decorate the repurposed room to meet the needs of the students. Included will be a couch, comfortable chairs, carpeting, work tables, chairs, etc. Items already available in this room include a bathroom, full size refrigerator, microwave, storage space, and Wi-Fi. (Aug. 2014)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. CCC staff will promote the use of this space in a variety of ways to student workers and parents (via email, newsletter articles, website, signage, ‘to-go’ snacks, etc.). Students will be asked to sign in and out so the utilization of this space can be tracked.</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<th>Target/Outcome/Objective</th>
<th>Method(s) (Select from Dropdown)</th>
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<td>Target 1: At least 50% of students who use the space at least twice a month will agree that using the space made them more likely to study than they otherwise would have.</td>
<td>Survey/Questionnaire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target 2: At least 75% of students who use the space at least once during a semester will agree with the statement that CCC cares about their success as a student.</td>
<td>Survey/Questionnaire</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

17
Campus Child Care
FY15 Survey Results (N=23)

- Campus Child Care cares about my success: 100%
- Having this space kept me on campus: 82%
- Felt more connected: 77%
- Made me study more than I would have: 73%
Summary

• NIU has robust assessment systems
  – Degree Programs
  – Academic Support Units
  – Student Affairs & Enrollment Management
• NIU is increasingly recognized for assessment
• Value-Added Assessment Projects
  – Supporting “data-driven” decision making
Northern Illinois University

Comments/Questions?