

Assessment

Culture of Assessment at Creighton University

“Creighton exists for students and learning.” Creighton University, as a Catholic, Jesuit University dedicated to excellence in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs, is committed to an ongoing process of assessment, reflection, evaluation and action that is consistent with the model of Ignatian teaching and learning.

With support from the Center for Faculty Excellence (CFE), programs collect, analyze, and then discuss program-level student learning outcomes to ensure enhancements to student learning. For compliance with university policies and in alignment with Higher Learning Commission standards, program assessment plans and annual program assessment reports are collected for evidence of student learning at the program level. Elements of these plans and reports include:

- **Student Learning Outcomes:** These specify what is expected of students to know or be able to do after completing the program.
- **Curriculum Maps:** These show alignment between the curriculum and the achievement of the student learning outcomes.
- **Evaluation Processes and Artifacts:** These outline where student learning is assessed and provide examples of direct and indirect measures to see how well students are achieving the outcomes.
- **Continuous Improvement Plans:** These involve analyzing assessment evaluation findings to make changes in pedagogy, curriculum design, and/or assessment practices to improve student learning. Program faculty will evaluate the impact of these assessment-informed changes over time in the continuous improvement plan. Refer to *A Simple Model for Learning Improvement: Weigh Pig, Feed Pig, Weigh Pig* by Keston H. Fulcher, Megan R. Good, Chris M. Coleman, and Kristen L. Smith.

Peer Review Process

One charge of the University Assessment Committee (UAC) is an evaluation process that allows the institution to review and ensure quality assurance for all degree programs, majors, and certificate programs. Program assessment of student learning quality assurance is overseen by the Peer Review subcommittee of the UAC.

The Peer Review subcommittee offers assistance to enhance programmatic assessment efforts and, with the University Assessment Committee members, annually provides feedback on programs', colleges', and schools' annual assessment reports. Specifically, the peer reviewers evaluate each program's:

- Learning Outcomes/Objectives

- Assessment Measures/Artifacts
- Assessment Results (interpretation of findings, action items, and communications)
- Continuous Improvement Plan

Resources

The CFE recognizes contributions and insights from external organizations, which lead higher education industry standards of excellence in teaching, learning, assessment, and academic technologies. This approach ensures that CFE initiatives are both innovative and aligned with the highest standards of academic excellence.

- Higher Learning Commission (HLC)
- The Chronicle in Higher Education
- Hanover Research: Trends in Higher Education
- Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU)
- American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U)
- The Professional and Organizational Development (POD) Network in Higher Education
- Assessment Update

University Committees, Advisory Board, Campus Partnerships

The University internal committees, advisory board, and campus partners lend expertise that significantly enhance the depth and breadth of teaching, learning, assessment, and academic initiatives. Their involvement helps us stay at the forefront of educational innovation and ensures that our initiatives have a broad and meaningful impact at Creighton University.

- University Assessment Committee
- Committee on Computing and Academic Technology
- Faculty Development Advisory Group [Link to PDF with information]
- Campus Partners:
 - Arizona Health Education Alliance
 - Center for Interprofessional Practice, Education & Research (CIPER)
 - Division of Mission and Ministry
 - Global and Community-Engaged Learning / Global Engagement Office
 - Institute for Population Health
 - Kingfisher Institute for Liberal Arts & Professions
 - Division of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
 - Office of Sustainability Programs
 - Research & Scholarship
 - Student Health Education and Compliance, Division of Student Life
 - University Libraries

This information sheet provides an overview of the culture of assessment at Creighton University, highlighting the systematic approach to evaluating and improving student learning outcomes.