

University: North Carolina State University

Program: Assessment

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Title of Contact Person: Director

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Website for program: http://www.ncsu.edu/undergrad_affairs/assessment/assess.htm

Description of Program:

- *To whom is the strategy or initiative directed among first-year students?*

The assessment initiative is directed among undergraduate students of all levels including first year students. The mission of the assessment office in the Division of Undergraduate Affairs is to help undergraduate academic support programs and learning initiatives plan, develop, implement, and use their assessment activities in accordance with the mission, goals, and compact plan of the Division and the University. The roles of the office of assessment in Undergraduate Affairs are the following:

- Support program, departmental, and college efforts in assessment of undergraduate matters, especially General Education requirements and undergraduate academic program review, by assisting with
 - the establishment of objectives and outcomes for undergraduate learning.
 - the identification of the purpose for undergraduate assessment,
 - the establishment of a plan for undergraduate assessment,
 - the organization and management of data and reports
 - the selection and/or design of assessment methods and instruments in accordance with their established purpose, and
 - closing the assessment loop by making decisions for continuous improvement.
- Coordinate and/or conduct analyses of student outcomes and/or progress.
- Provide assessment support for proposals to fund various initiatives focusing on student success.
- Supervise technical aspects of assessment, including data collection and analysis and the design of databases and analysis tools.
- Serve on various University committees concerning undergraduate assessment and its effectiveness.

- Assist with the preparation and dissemination of reports on undergraduate assessment activities to the campus community and external constituents
 - Collaborate with University Planning and Analysis to coordinate data collection, analysis, and use in undergraduate assessment discussions and initiatives.
- *Among these targeted students, how many or what percentage participate or benefit? In not all targeted students participate, how are participants selected?*

The assessment initiative is geared toward all undergraduate education initiatives including those that focus on first year students.

- *What connections does the program or strategy have to formal classroom experiences and learning outcomes?*

The assessment office assists in the assessment of any undergraduate initiative that affects students' learning and development outcomes in the formal classroom and in the informal academic setting. For example, the assessment office is currently assessing student learning outcomes of critical thinking and problem-solving skills promoted by different pedagogies on campus.

- *What qualitative or quantitative assessment data are available to suggest effectiveness?*

The assessment office is in the process of collecting data for the assessment of the assessment office. From an initial review of program directors' reports, the assessment office is fulfilling its mission and roles. The program directors report that Dr. Bresciani has been critical in helping them develop and progress through their assessment process.

- *How long has the program strategy been practiced? How has it evolved?*

The assessment initiative under Dr. Bresciani's direction has been practiced since February of 2001. The assessment office has evolved from a one-person unit to a staff of 6 graduate and undergraduate students since that time period. As the assessment office has evolved, the office has become actively involved in additional projects and strategies the campus is currently developing.

- *Have others emulated the practice, or has it received formal recognition for effectiveness?*

The American Association of Higher Education (AAHE) has featured the work that the office, in partnership with other university assessment units, has completed in regards to undergraduate academic program review.

- *What is the source of funding? Is the funding available?*

The Division of Undergraduate Affairs provides funding for the assessment office. Sources of additional funding are currently being pursued in the form of National Science Foundation (NSF) grant requests.