

THE DIVISION OF UNDERGRADUATE AFFAIRS OFFICE OF ASSESSMENT

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Undergraduate Assessment at North Carolina State University

Expectation of Excellence

Assessment is a North Carolina State University institutional value. At NC State, we are expected to evaluate all we do in an effort to continuously improve student learning and development. Assessment aligns directly with our institutional mission of being an accountable, land-grant, state institution. Through continuous and systematic evaluation, we promote a culture of learning, improvement and accountability.

Mission

Undergraduate Assessment in the Division of Undergraduate Affairs provides support for continuous program improvement for all departments serving undergraduate students by offering education and consulting regarding on-going assessment of student learning and development.

Purpose of Assessment

Assessment in Undergraduate Education will

- ◆ Improve student learning and development
- ◆ Reinforce or emphasize the mission of each unit and the institution
- ◆ Improve programs and/or performance (formative)
- ◆ Compare a program's quality or value to the program's previously defined principles (summative)
- ◆ Inform decision making
- ◆ Inform planning
- ◆ Inform policy discussions at the local, state, regional, and national level
- ◆ Evaluate programs, not personnel
- ◆ Assist in the request for additional funds from the university and external community

- ◆ Assist in meeting accreditation requirements, models of best practices, and national benchmarks
- ◆ Celebrate successes
- ◆ Reflect on the attitudes and approach we take in improving teaching and learning
- ◆ Create a culture of continuous improvement - a culture of accountability, of learning, and of improvement (Bresciani, 2003)

We assist with assessing undergraduate education by supporting and serving on the following expert-driven committees.

- **CUPR** – the Committee on Undergraduate Academic Program Review manages the undergraduate academic program review process (UAPR). This process ensures quality education of academic programs while maintaining faculty autonomy and flexibility. http://www.ncsu.edu/provost/academic_programs/uapr/UAPRindx.html
- **CUE** – the Council on Undergraduate Education oversees the general education program and its assessment. http://www.ncsu.edu/undergrad_affairs/assessment/files/ger/ger.htm
- **UGA Assessment Team**—the Undergraduate Affairs Academic Support Specialists are responsible for their own areas of improving delivery of academic support services. http://www.ncsu.edu/undergrad_affairs/assessment/assess.htm
- **SAAT** – the Student Affairs Assessment Task Force was created through a formal partnership with Student Affairs, SAAT and the UGA office of Assessment. These groups work together to facilitate expert driven assessment of student development and its services. (http://www.ncsu.edu/student_affairs/saat/index.html)
- **SACS IE Team** – the Southern Association for Colleges and Schools Institutional Effectiveness Compliance Team for Accreditation is charged with drafting the section of the compliance certification report that describes NC State’s policies, procedures, and/or programs demonstrating compliance with institutional effectiveness. (http://www2.acs.ncsu.edu/UPA/accreditation/charge_ie.htm)
- **LITRE Assessment Team** – Learning in a Technology Enriched Environment team is charged with developing and continually refining assessment plan for the 21st century educational environment at NC State. The assessment plan will emphasize the central role that technology will play as well as analyze and assess strengths, challenges, and opportunities for student learning as facilitated by technology. (<http://www2.acs.ncsu.edu/UPA/accreditation.htm>)

Resources and Services

The office of Undergraduate Assessment offers a myriad of resources and services in order to assist faculty and co-curricular specialists with meaningful and manageable assessment. Such resources include offering

- Specialized Workshops - http://www.ncsu.edu/provost/academic_programs/uapr/resources/UAPRwkshpAnytime.html

- On-line Assessment Tool-Kit -
http://www.ncsu.edu/provost/academic_programs/uapr/resources/UAPRToolkit.html
- Mini-Grants -
http://www.ncsu.edu/provost/academic_programs/uapr/resources/UAPRsupport.html
- Facilitators –
http://www.ncsu.edu/provost/academic_programs/uapr/resources/UAPRcontactFac.html
- Assessment Management Software -
http://www.ncsu.edu/undergrad_affairs/assessment/files/resources/tracdat/tracdat.htm
- Facilitating Support from Colleges –
http://www.ncsu.edu/provost/academic_programs/uapr/resources/UAPRcolleges.html
- Access to an Extensive Assessment Library – located in 126 Leazar Hall
- One-on-One Consulting – available upon request on any assessment topic
- Courses offered through the College of Education in program evaluation and assessment
- Supervise of graduate students’ work in assessment of student learning
- Facilitate special research projects on student learning
- Develop and refine electronic solutions for assessment
- Facilitate state, regional, and national discussions on improvement of student learning through assessment
- Produce cutting edge publications for the assessment profession

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