

THE CHALLENGES AND REWARDS OF A NEW ASSESSMENT LEADER

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Introduction



- About Moraine Valley Community College
- About our positions
- Our history of academic assessment
 - ▣ College Assessment Plan

Strategies



- Philosophical Approaches
- Operational Strategies



Philosophical Approaches

Faculty Evaluation vs. Student Assessment



- Do not intervene in classroom and instructor-issued student grades
- Build a firewall between indicators of student achievement and faculty performance evaluations

Emphasize Student Learning



- Focus on assessment's benefits for student learning
- Faculty might become more receptive to assessment if the emphasis is placed on student learning.

Classroom vs. Course and Program Assessment

- Convey the differences
- Moraine Valley's [chart](#)

Clear Assessment Vocabulary

- Agree to college-wide definitions and usage for words that often cause confusion:
 - assessment, evaluation, standardized versus shared, and learning outcomes.

Learn the Curriculum



- Benefits
- College Catalog

Publicize the Assessment Office



- Establish a web presence
- Reach out to all faculty
- Participate in professional development activities
- Network with other assessment personnel



Operational Strategies

Starting the Conversation

- Offer to meet with individual department chairs
- Ask them about current practices
 - Stress that they're already performing assessment even if it isn't formalized and even if they don't want to use the term.

Begin with the End in Mind

- Student Assessment (by itself) is not a goal or solution. It may be one worthwhile tool to solve a persistent problem.
- Work with faculty around a common course or problem and ask them to describe the desired goal or end state.
- First, solve the problem conceptually and then use assessment to achieve the solution.

Target Student Learning Outcomes



- Make student learning outcomes the primary target of assessment work
- Use learning outcomes as the meeting point for discussions about course content, expectations for students, instructional practices, role of the textbook, assessment practices

Create Tools for Easy Use



- Templates
- Samples
- Post online resources

Documenting and Reporting

- Establish documentation and reporting vehicles and schedules early – even before there is anything big to report.
- Effective documenting and reporting is an important part of the student assessment “game”: selling to administration and faculty.

Establish Long-Term Practices



- If an assessment practice is worth doing once, it is worth doing five times.
- Only with repetition will an assessment initiative become a habit among instructors and move to the status of can't-do-without.

Our Handouts



- Moraine Valley's College Assessment Plan
- Assessment of Student Academic Achievement Brochure
- Comprehensive List of Strategies

Questions



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