

Improving Our Programs Through Effective Outcomes Assessment

BEREA
COLLEGE



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Improving Our Programs Through Effective Outcomes Assessment

By the end of this workshop, you should be able to:

1. Describe Berea College's assessment process and what is expected for your area.
2. Write effective program and/or learning outcomes.
3. Describe the difference between direct and indirect measures of program or learning outcomes.
4. Create an assessment plan that uses at least one direct and one indirect measure of a single outcome for assessment.
5. Establish clear targets/benchmarks for the assessment of each outcome.
6. Explain what is meant by "closing the loop" in assessment, including one example of using the results of assessment to make an improvement.

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Outcomes Assessment at Berea College: Overview & Context

The Why?

- Assessment for institutional effectiveness and improvement
 - How well are we achieving our mission?
 - How do we decide and prioritize where we put our resources?
- Accreditation (SACSCOC)
 - Standard 7.3 (Administrative Effectiveness)
 - Standard 8.2.c (Student Outcomes: Academic & Student Services)

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Outcomes Assessment at Berea College: Overview & Context

The What?

- Berea's Outcomes Assessment Process
- Three-year cycles and some terminology
- Three Primary Components:
 1. Establish outcomes/objectives (program and/or learning)
 2. Assess all outcomes/objectives at least once over each three-year cycle
 3. Demonstrate evidence of using your assessment results to try to improve (aka "closing the loop")

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Best Practices in Assessment: Establishing Outcomes

- Establishing your program outcomes
 - Between 4 – 6 outcomes is sufficient
 - Program outcomes vs. student learning outcomes
 - "Mapping" your outcomes to your program
- Choosing your measures (Part A)
 - Direct vs. indirect measures
 - Objective vs. subjective measures

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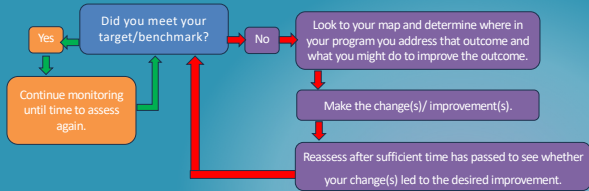
Best Practices in Assessment: Assessing Your Outcomes

- Setting targets/benchmarks (Part A)
 - Realistic but aspirational
 - Internal vs. external benchmarks
- Systematically collecting and documenting assessment data (Part A)
 - Have a specific plan
 - Have a strategy

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Best Practices in Assessment: Using Assessment for Improvement

- Making use of assessment results to **close the loop** (Part B & C)



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Some Closing Comments...

- Reminder that Annual Reports are due every **August 1st**
- Assessment measures should include:
 - At least 1 direct/objective measure
 - Benchmarks
 - A clear plan for how each measure will be gathered and used
- Results:
 - When the benchmark is met, continued monitoring is okay
 - When the benchmark is not met, should include a clear and specific way that the center/program is going to try to improve and when the center/program intends to reassess that outcome or objective.
- Always include your evidence (as separate attachments or embedded within the report)

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Anonymous Workshop Evaluation



Or use this link:
https://berea.qualtrics.com/fe/form/SV_9KuYhxDRhGWVIC6

Contact for Assistance

Email	Call me	Visit the website
smithro@berea.edu	Ext. 3416	www.berea.edu/office-of-academic-affairs/assessment

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