



**UA Assessment Showcase:
Best Practices in the Assessment of
Learning and Teaching
February 11, 2009
Tucson Marriott University Park Hotel**

Program

7:30 am – 7:55 am

Registration and continental breakfast Madera

8:00 am – 8:10 am

Welcome and Introduction of Guest Speaker Madera

Meredith Hay, Provost and Executive Vice President, The University of Arizona

8:10 am – 8:40 am

Keynote Address Madera

Doing Assessment for the Right Reasons

Victor Borden, Associate Vice President, University Planning, Institutional Research and Accountability, Indiana University – Bloomington

External mandates for assessment are increasing but such mandates often shape assessment in ways that are not palatable to members of the academy. This presentation will explore the sources of resistance to assessment that derive from this "accountability culture gap" and articulate an approach that lessens such resistance and promotes doing assessment for the right reasons – to enhance the learning environment and improve student learning.

8:50 am – 9:30 am

Concurrent Sessions

Grading Rubrics.....Canyon A

Carrie Wiley and Darrell Sabers, Department of Educational Psychology

Rubrics have the potential to reveal student progress, provide directions for curriculum development, evaluate the current effectiveness of the curriculum and instruction of the teacher, and engage students and teachers in exploring their own practices. In this session, we will discuss rubrics and share experiences regarding rubric development and use.

Using Portfolios and Capstones for AssessmentCanyon B

Ed White, Department of English and Martha Ostheimer, College of Engineering

This session features a joint presentation that will show how the theory of portfolio outcomes assessment was put into practice by the Electrical and Computing Engineering Department at the University of Arizona.

**Assessment of the General Education Program.....Canyon C
Jim Riley, Tom Fleming, and Doug Toussaint, University-Wide General Education Committee**

A brief review of the actions taken by the University-Wide General Education Committee (UWGEC) in response to program assessment needs will be presented. The session will also include examples of UWGEC evaluation of Tier One and Tier Two General Education courses.

**Outcomes Assessment 101 Madera
Gwendolyn Johnson, Institutional Research and Planning Support and Deb Levine-Donnerstein,
Department of Educational Psychology**

A primer for outcomes assessment will be presented. Practical suggestions for writing measurable outcomes statements and commonly used measures will be reviewed.

**9:35 am – 10:15 am
Concurrent Sessions**

**Grading Rubrics.....Canyon A
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A joint presentation that will show how the theory of portfolio outcomes assessment was put into practice by the Electrical and Computing Engineering Department at the University of Arizona

**Writing and Thinking Initiatives in Large Classes.....Canyon C
Anne-Marie Hall, Writing Program**

This session will focus on several collaborative learning activities (CoLTS) that can be implemented effectively in large classes. Techniques will be highlighted that enhance discussion, reciprocal teaching, problem solving, organization (using graphic information organizers), and writing.

**Supporting Assessment Using University Data: Sources and Web Tools..... Madera
Rick Kroc, Institutional Research and Planning Support**

This session will describe the array of data currently available at UA to support assessment, including types of data, sources, and access. The relationship of assessment to the Business Intelligence component of the Mosaic project will also be discussed.

**10:15 am – 10:25 am
Break**

10:30 am – 11:10 am

Concurrent Sessions

**Student Affairs Assessment Work Team ResultsCanyon A
Nicholle Zarkower and LaTricia Brand, Office of Student Affairs**

This presentation will showcase the process the Student Affairs work team followed to develop the Assessment Palette and the distribution of assessment information to the division.

**Multiple Modes for Evaluating Teaching Canyon B
Terri Riffe, University Teaching Center, Sue South and Gretchen Gibbs, Learning Technologies Center**

Beyond student ratings, how may teaching be evaluated? This session offers tools and suggestions for getting and using evaluative data for both improving teaching and for documenting teaching effectiveness.

**Best Practices in Information Literacy AssessmentCanyon C
Yvonne Mery, Vicki Mills, and Jill Newby, University Libraries**

Academic librarians rely on the Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education as a starting point for developing learning objectives and rubrics for learning outcomes assessment. UA librarians will present assessment methods that have been used locally for the English Composition Program, as well as provide examples of national assessment instruments that are being used in academic libraries. The presentation will focus on assessment activities that are being developed for an online information literacy course that will be offered in conjunction with English 102.

**Assessing for Program Improvement Madera
Victor Borden, Associate Vice President, University Planning, Institutional Research and Accountability, Indiana University – Bloomington**

The session will describe the use of collaborative "action-inquiry" methods to integrate evaluation research (assessment) with planning and pilot-testing new strategies as well as evaluating and enhancing existing programs.

11:15 am – 11:55 am

Concurrent Sessions

**Assessment in the Fine Arts – Jacqueline Chanda, College of Fine ArtsCanyon A
Assessment in the Social Sciences – Jim Shockey, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Canyon B
Assessment in Engineering – Jeff Goldberg, College of EngineeringCanyon C**

These sessions will feature a variety of exemplary models for assessment within the respective colleges. Emphasis will be placed on the various aspects of assessment including, outcomes, activities, use of results.

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12:15 pm – 1:15 pm

Lunch **Madera**

Institutional Plan for Assessment at The University of Arizona
Gail Burd, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

1:30 pm – 2:10 pm

Concurrent Sessions

Assessment in the Humanities – Tom Willard, College of HumanitiesCanyon A
Assessment in Science and Agriculture – Dennis Ray, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Canyon B
Assessment in Business – Diza Sauers and Robin Breault, Eller College of ManagementCanyon C

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Case Studies at the Graduate/Professional Level Madera
Maria Teresa Velez and Dianne Horgan, Graduate College

This presentation will highlight several assessment initiatives within the UA Graduate College. The new teaching assistant training program and the strategic use of National Research Council (NRC) survey results will be featured.

2:15 pm – 2:55m

Concurrent Sessions

Effective Multiple Choice TestsCanyon A
Ed Prather, Steward Observatory

Well constructed multiple choice tests can measure students' ability to apply, integrate, synthesize, and evaluate. This presentation will offer ideas and suggestions for designing multiple choice tests that can measure complex thinking.

Assessment in Student Affairs Canyon B
Lynette Cook-Francis, Kendal Washington-White, Melissa Ousley, David Salafsky, Peggy Glider

This presentation will feature the results of three separate assessment projects in Student Affairs: M.A.S.S., Faculty-Student Interaction, and Campus Health

Assessment of the General Education ProgramCanyon C
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3:00 pm – 3:10 pm

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Rick Kroc, Institutional Research and Planning Support

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4:00 pm – 4:45 pm

***Lessons Learned and Wrap up*..... Madera**

Gail Burd, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, The University of Arizona

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Acknowledgements

**Thanks to all of the Presenters and
to the Office of the Provost for funding the Showcase
Meredith Hay, Provost and Executive Vice President
Gail Burd, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs**

Special thanks to the Assessment Coordinating Council for planning the Showcase

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Special Invitation

The Office of the Provost and the Assessment Coordinating Council (ACC) invite you to review and comment on the development of the UA Assessment Plan. The working draft of the Plan can be viewed at <http://assessment.arizona.edu>. Send your comments to Gwendolyn Johnson at gwj@u.arizona.edu.