



WORKSHOP DETAILS

Making a Difference in Student Learning: Assessment as a Core Strategy

A Team-Based Workshop of The Higher Learning Commission of NCA

February 3 - 5, 2010

Lisle, Illinois (western suburb of Chicago)

Program begins: 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 3, 2010 (pre-workshop sessions from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.)

Program ends: Noon, Friday, February 5, 2010

Registration Link: <http://registration.ncahlc.org/index.a4d?id=173>

Detailed information on hotel, transportation, etc., is sent AFTER registration.

Who should attend?

The workshop is team-based and specifically designed for interaction, dialogue, coaching, and action-plan development by a small group of people from your institution. Ideal teams are cross-functional (faculty, staff, administrators) and number from 3-8. **Teams should include people, like chief academic officers, assessment directors, and assessment committee members, who are empowered to implement key strategies when they return to their institutions after the workshop.** Many teams, recognizing that learning and assessment are cross-functional, include representatives from student affairs, institutional research, and other areas responsible for learning and its assessment.

Workshop Content

This team-based workshop for both PEAQ & AQIP institutions combines interactive concurrent sessions with mentored teamwork to produce a portfolio of strategies for assessing and improving student learning directly related to the institution's current needs and goals. Focused work includes information on trends and good practices in assessment, undergraduate and graduate learning, co-curricular learning, determining effective outcomes and measures, and documenting learning. The workshop will also include special tracks on assessing general education and developing useful, manageable assessment information.

Recent pre-sessions have included:

- ◆ Assessment Basics: From Outcomes to Feedback Loops & Spirals
- ◆ Accreditation and Assessment: The Criteria, Accountability, and Student Learning
- ◆ Assessing On-line Learning
- ◆ Understanding Data

(included in workshop fee, registration is required)

The workshop will help institutions deal with six fundamental questions about assessment on campus that will frame the conversation and team work throughout the workshop:

1. How are your stated student learning outcomes appropriate to your mission, programs, degrees, and students?
2. What evidence do you have that students achieve your stated learning outcomes?
3. In what ways do you analyze and use evidence of student learning?
4. How do you ensure shared responsibility for student learning and for assessment of student learning?

5. How do you evaluate and improve the effectiveness of your efforts to assess and improve student learning?
6. In what ways do you inform the public and other stakeholders about what and how well your students are learning?

Five types of sessions will be offered during the workshop:

- ◆ Dedicated team time with assessment mentors from diverse institutions who will assist teams to map out an action strategy for their institutions
- ◆ Plenary sessions on good practice trends and approaches to meaningful, useful, workable, and reasonable assessment in diverse institutional settings
- ◆ Breakout sessions on assessing and improving student learning (general education, co-curricular, graduate education, analyzing and using data, accountability issues and trends, patterns and characteristics of successful institutions, technology and software, online learning, etc.)
- ◆ One-to-one meetings with Commission staff and assessment mentors focused on institutional questions, needs, and goals
- ◆ Opportunities to see what other institutions are doing, including the tools and resources they employ.

Teams participating in the workshop will:

- ◆ Develop one or more specific goals aimed at implementing effective strategies for assessing and improving student learning—that is, real work they plan to initiate when they return to their institutions, or resolutions for key issues and questions that need to be addressed at their institutions.
- ◆ Create a portfolio of strategies and a specific action plan designed to achieve the institution's goals for assessing and improving student learning.
- ◆ Discuss, evaluate, test, and customize trends, approaches, and tools for assessing and improving student learning by working with mentors, Commission staff, and other institutions.
- ◆ Evaluate their current efforts in assessment: Is assessment fundamental, meaningful, and a part of the culture, is it simply a compliance issue?

Registration Fees (per person):

Note: The lodging package includes all meals (estimate \$170, including meals, per night). **Detailed information on hotel, transportation, etc., is sent AFTER registration.**

Overnight rate - \$690 (does not include lodging and meals)

Commuter rate - \$890 (includes meals)

Fees for Institutional Members of HLC's Academy for Assessment of Student Learning

Overnight rate - \$600 (does not include lodging and meals)

Commuter rate - \$800 (includes all meals and pre-sessions)

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The Higher Learning Commission

Making a Difference in Student Learning: Assessment as a Core Strategy

Marriott Hickory Ridge Conference Hotel

Lisle, IL

February 3 - 5, 2010

Draft Agenda: Sessions are subject to change

Day One

Time	Room(s)	Session(s)
9:00 -11:30 am	Pre-Workshop Sessions (<i>Registration Requested for all Sessions</i>)	
		Assessment Basics: From Outcomes to Feedback Loops and Spirals
		Understanding Data
		Accreditation & Assessment: The Criteria, Accountability, and Student Learning
11:30 -1:00 pm		Lunch available
1:00 – 3:00		Introduction and Opening Plenary: Learning, Innovation, & Quality: New Questions on Assessment, Accountability, and Accreditation
3:00 – 3:15		Break
3:15 – 5:15		Focusing on What Matters Most. Teams begin to define strategies that meet their goals and needs
5:15 – 5:30		Break
5:30 – 6:30		Open Discussion and Sharing. Accountability, Transparency, and Learning. Who’s using what system? Who cares and why? (
6:30 – 7:15		Reception <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Sign-up for Meal & “Office Hour” Meetings with Mentors & Commission Staff
7:15		Dinner
8:00		Optional Team Time and Meetings with Mentors & Staff

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Day Two		
Opens 6:30 am		Breakfast
8:00 – 9:00		What Matters at Your Institution? Considering two core questions before designing your strategy for assessing & improving learning.
9:15 – 10:15	Concurrent Sessions: Fundamental Questions and Good Practices in Assessment	
		<i>How well are your graduate students learning what you want them to learn?</i> Defining and Assessing Graduate Outcomes
		<i>Are students learning outside the classroom? Are you assessing it?</i> Assessing Co-Curricular Learning
		<i>Why should we care that students know about human diversity?</i> Diversity Learning Outcomes
		<i>What kinds of actions stimulate positive assessment on campus?</i> Lessons Learned: Advice for Assessment Professionals
		<i>When do standardized tests work? When don't they?</i> An Open Conversation about Standardized Instruments
10:15 – 10:30		Break
10:30 – Noon		Applying Good Practice Learners work with mentors to develop good practice strategies that are meaningful and useful to their focus for the workshop
Noon – 1:15		Lunch (Set up for a mentor/Commission staff to join your team)
1:15- 2:15	Concurrent Sessions: Fundamental Questions and Good Practices in Assessment	
		<i>Why does general education remain a conundrum?</i> Defining and assessing General Education Outcomes
		<i>How do we assess outcomes that don't have a specific "home" in the curriculum?</i> Striving for Deep Learning: Ethical Reasoning, Global Perspective, and Other Elusive Learning Goals
		<i>How do we use data about student learning in making programmatic decisions?</i> Incorporating Assessment into Program Review
		<i>How do we turn learning goals into plans and action?</i> Creating Plans for Assessment and Improvement
		<i>What data are useful in documenting and improving student learning</i> Evidence of Student Learning: What Kinds, Where to Find It & How to Use It
2:15 - 2:30		Break
2:30 – 3:45		Flash Sessions: Learning from One Another Short discussions, based on good practices contained in pre-work statements, led by workshop participants on topics to be announced.
4:00 – 6:00		Adapting Good Practice to Institutions (Team time with mentors)

6:00 - 7:00		Dinner (Sign up for a mentor or staff member to join your team)
7:15 – 8:15		Mentor and Staff “office hours” or Optional Teamwork

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Day Three		
Opens 6:30 am	The Crossings	Breakfast
8:00 – 9:00	Concurrent Sessions: More Ideas for Team Strategies	
		<i>What are institutions really doing about general education?</i> Rethinking General Education – Trends, Paths of Success, and Continuing Challenges
		<i>Is it buy-in, culture, values, systems, or all of the above?</i> Leading and Engaging People in Assessing and Improving Learning
		<i>Why is disciplined-based assessment critical?</i> Facilitated Discussion on Trends in Assessing Science and Social Science Outcomes
9:00 – 10:00		Team Time: Teams finalize strategies and integrate concurrent session ideas into action plans.
10:00 – 10:30		Check-out and Break
10:30 - Noon		Seeing It Happen: Teams display posters of their projects and share with each other. Commission staff close.

Note: Lunch on the last day is not included in the fee. Those choosing to stay may purchase lunch in the dining room. Attendees may also purchase box lunches to go.