

National Institute for
Learning Outcomes Assessment
Making Learning Outcomes Usable & Transparent



Student Learning Outcomes Assessment at Community Colleges

AAC&U Annual Meeting – January 2012 - Washington DC
Jillian Kinzie, NILOA & Indiana University; Trudy Bers, Oakton
Community College; Mary Kate Quinlan, Community College of
Allegheny County
www.learningoutcomesassessment.org

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**Far too little is known about
assessment practices on campuses
around the country**

**Student Learning Outcomes
Assessment increasingly important...**

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**To Presidents: *What is the current
state of learning outcome
assessment at your institution?***

- “NEASC is pushing for outcomes.”
- “HLC came down on us hard on student learning outcomes assessment.”

Source: NILOA focus group conducted at ACE

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**Regional accreditors cite deficiencies in
student learning outcomes assessment
with greater frequency**

- ✓ **Middle States** - 2/3 of institutions have follow-up; number one reason being assessment
- ✓ **NEASC** - 80% of institutions asked for follow-up on student learning outcomes assessment
- ✓ **HLC** - 7 out of 10 institutions are being monitored; the vast majority for student learning outcomes assessment.

What are Your Interests & Concerns?

- **What challenges are you facing in your learning outcomes assessment work? Where are the troublespots?**
- **Have you had an “issue” in accreditation?**

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Overview of NILOA

NILOA's mission is to document student learning outcomes assessment work, identify and disseminate best practices, and support institutions in their assessment efforts.

[SURVEYS](#) • [WEB SCANS](#) • [CASE STUDIES](#) • [FOCUS GROUPS](#) • [OCCASIONAL PAPERS](#) • [WEBSITE](#) • [RESOURCES](#) • [NEWSLETTER](#) • [LISTSERV](#) • [PRESENTATIONS](#) • [TRANSPARENCY FRAMEWORK](#) • [FEATURED WEBSITES](#) • [ACCREDITATION RESOURCES](#) • [ASSESSMENT EVENTS](#) • [ASSESSMENT NEWS](#) • [MEASURING QUALITY INVENTORY](#) • [POLICY ANALYSIS](#) • [ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN](#)

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Welcome to NILOA

Now to the website? Click here for a general overview

May 2011 NILOA's sixth Occasional Paper: What faculty unions say about student learning outcomes assessment is now available

Occasional Paper 6
Assessment Brief Framework
Occasional Paper 8
Occasional Paper 7

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Preparing Future Faculty to Assess Student Learning
From July 18, 2011 - 08:28 am
Council of Graduate Schools (CGS)

The Council of Graduate Schools just released their latest publication, *Preparing Future Faculty to Assess Student Learning*. This monograph examines professional development programs designed to help current graduate students understand more about student learning outcomes assessment. Check out the press release [here](#).

NILOA May Newsletter Available
From May 18, 2011 - 08:28 am
NILOA

Find out about the new reports that NILOA is producing along with recent news items about learning outcomes assessment in this month's newsletter.

NILOA Occasional Paper No. 8... "What faculty unions say about

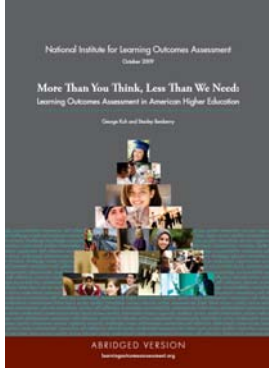
Featured pages
Transparency Framework
National Survey Results - 2009
Occasional Papers
College & University Associations
College & University Programs

FEATURED WEBSITE
National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment

Joliet Junior College
Joliet Junior College is NILOA's PIV for its communication, negotiation and creativity.

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- 2009 Survey asked chief academic officers at every accredited 2 & 4 year US college and university about their campus assessment practices
- Results were useful to start discussion, but we knew the real action was at the program level



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October 2009

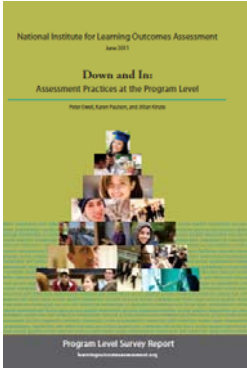
More Than You Think, Less Than We Need:
Learning Outcomes Assessment in American Higher Education

George K. and Debra Salter

ABRIDGED VERSION

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- NILOA surveyed program heads in the two and four-year sectors to gain a more complete picture of assessment activity at the program or department level
- 2011 report details findings from 982 programs (30% of programs surveyed)



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Down and In:
Assessment Practices at the Program Level

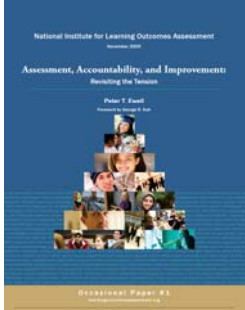

Peter Ford, Lynn Parsons, and John Burke

Program Level Survey Report
learningoutcomesassessment.org

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Occasional Papers

Assessment Briefs

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Assessment, Accountability, and Improvement:
Resolving the Tension

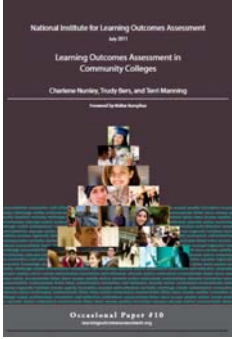
Peter T. Ewert
Professional Development Director

Assessment Brief: Faculty

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Learning Outcomes Assessment in Community Colleges

Paper analyzes findings from 2 surveys – one of institutional researchers & one of chief academic officers from community colleges – to better understand state of student learning outcomes assessment.



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Learning Outcomes Assessment in Community Colleges

Chelene Hordley, Tracy Barr, and Terri Manning
Reviewed by Mike Ruppel

Occasional Paper #10
learningoutcomesassessment.org

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What can we learn from studies of assessment practices in the 2 and 4 year sector?



Commonalities across Colleges

- Open admission
- Commuter
- Part-time
- Low income
- First generation
- Academically disadvantaged
- Adjunct faculty



NILOA Paper: Some Key Findings

- Accreditation drives assessment
- Need for professional support & professional development
- When are students at end of program?
- What's a program?
- Use of results is rare



Heretical Propositions Don't need to...

- Involve all faculty
- Test for statistical significance, validity or reliability
- Assess all courses
- Assess annually



Are you a heretic?

- Small group discussions
- What do you think?

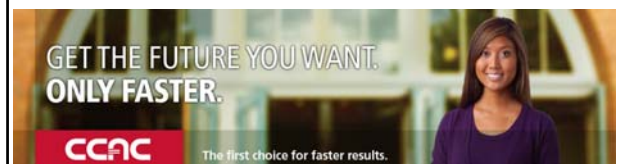


Community College of Allegheny County

- Serves Pittsburgh, PA metro
 - Four Campuses/Five Centers
- 33,000 annual unduplicated credit headcount
- 30,000 annual unduplicated non-credit headcount
- 5,000 students access CCAC via distance education
- 2,663 grads 2010-11
- Among two year colleges:
 - Largest producer of nursing grads
 - Second largest producer of allied health professionals

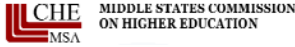


CCAC's Responses to NILOA Survey



Factors/Forces Prompting Assessment

1. Regional accreditation (2005 - Warning)
2. Institutional membership initiatives (Joined ATD 2006)



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Approaches Used to Assess Learning

- | Departments/Units | Institution |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance assessment • Rubrics • Specialized or programmatic knowledge and skills measures • External expert judgments of student performance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance assessment • Rubrics • National Student Surveys (CCSSE and ACT) |

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Use of Assessment Results

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program review • Specialized accreditation • Institutional accreditation • Revising learning goals • Inform strategic planning • Improving instructional performance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determining student readiness for college-level work • Informing governing board • Encouraging adoption of "best practices" • Modifying support services • Allocating resources |
|---|---|

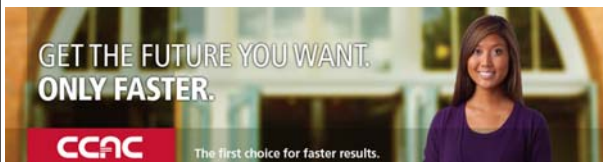
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Status of Assessment

- ✓ Most full-time faculty are involved in assessment
 - ✓ Institution has well-developed process and structure for assessing student learning
 - ✓ The college possesses several years of assessment data
 - ✓ The college is well prepared for next accreditation visit
- > **Next step** – *All or most departments use results to revise/improve curricula and pedagogy*

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How CCAC Applies the Guidelines

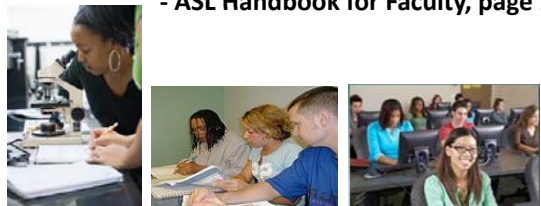


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Focus on the Purpose

"The primary purpose of assessment is the improvement of student learning."

- ASL Handbook for Faculty, page 1



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Create a Meaningful Process

- **“Assessment of student learning will be faculty led; however, all members of the college community and external stakeholders will be involved in the processes.”**
 - One of five principles adopted by ASL committee in 2005

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Assess to Learn

- **The “No Frills” process**
 - Select one objective
 - Pick two measures
 - Have a meeting to discuss results

(Barbara Walvoord)

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Provide Support and Professional Development

- **Support**
 - Director and deans
 - Assessment Advisory Group
 - Website, templates, checklists, examples
- **Professional development**
 - Workshops
 - Webinars
 - Tips of the month

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Assessment Data are One Source of Evidence

- **Part of comprehensive program review**
 - Academic programs/disciplines and Student Services
- **Licensure and certification pass rates**
- **Strategic Plan/Scorecard**
- **5 ATD measures**
- **NCCBP**
- **VFA**

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Emphasize Use of Results

- **TracDat system**
 - Actions to improve learning
 - Closing the Loop
- **Program review responses, alignment with budget**
- **Decision-making/resource allocation**

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CCAC Today

- **Middle States PRR 2011**
 - Accreditation re-affirmed
 - Commended for progress to date and for the quality of the report
- **2011 Achieving the Dream Leader College**



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To Ponder

- **What have we missed?**
- **Is the completion agenda pushing out student learning outcomes assessment?**

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Discussion?
Questions?
Comments?

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