Developing Sustainable Assessment Practices

Introduction

Welcome to the module on developing sustainable assessment practices. Faculty members, staff members, or administrators in higher education should find this module useful for determining how to put policies and processes in place that support ongoing assessment efforts. Through completing this module, you should be better able to recognize potential barriers to sustaining your assessment efforts, as well as identify the strengths and opportunities presented by your existing institutional practices. This module will also allow you to identify some of the best you should consider for sustaining the cycle of inquiry and recommend changes and initiatives to ensure sustainable assessment practices at your institution. As you work through different sections of the module, we’ll begin each one by asking you to reflect on, and write about some of your own experiences with assessment. Don’t worry if those experiences have been limited, you will have the opportunity to watch videos in which faculty and administrators will share their experiences attempting to sustain assessment efforts at their institutions. You will also have the opportunity to read perspectives from the literature on sustainable assessment. After each activity of this sort you will generally asked to think back and expand on the written responses you initially provided. You will build on your own ideas about sustaining assessment efforts on your campus. In addition, you will work with a case study from another institution to explore how to improve sustainable assessment practices. If possible, we strongly recommend you find one or more colleagues who’d be willing to work through the module with you and discuss your responses together. Finally, you will also be given activities in which you choose an assessment scenario that best matches your role at your institution and are asked to generate ideas that are specific to your own institutional needs. We hope that through these activities you and any colleagues with whom you complete this module will come away with concrete ideas about how to sustain assessment efforts on your campus.