Demystifying Assessment

Introduction

Welcome to the module on demystifying assessment. Whether you are a faculty member, staff member, or administrator in higher education, this module should provide a useful introduction to assessment practices and terminology. Through completing this module, you should be better able to explain what assessment is and its potential role in evaluating and improving institutional effectiveness. This module will also allow you to explain some of the common terminology related to assessment and describe frameworks you can use to begin to consider the ways in which your institution can engage in the process of assessment. As you work through the different sections of the module, we will begin each one by asking you to reflect on and write about some of your prior knowledge about, or experiences with assessment. Don’t worry if your knowledge and experience is limited, you will have the opportunity to read some perspectives from the literature on assessment and develop your understanding of assessment terminology. After reading this content, you will generally be asked to think back and expand on the written responses you initially provided. If possible, we strongly recommend you find one or more colleagues who would be willing to work through the module with you and discuss your responses together. 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 improve assessment efforts on your campus.