



FORTNIGHT

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A Communiqué focusing on topics related to Outcomes Assessment, Institutional Effectiveness, and Institutional Research produced jointly by the Office of the Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness and the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (OIRA) at the College of Staten Island/The City University of New York

www.library.csi.cuny.edu/assessment

WHAT IS FORTNIGHT?

A **fortnight** is a unit of time equivalent to 14 days. The term derives from the Old English *feorwertyne niht*, meaning "fourteen nights." Inspired by the opportunities and challenges of Middle States Standard 14 and the desire to share information and best practices, **FORTNIGHT** is a communication vehicle, which is distributed online to the campus community.

THE ASSESSMENT MATRIX: MISSIONS, MAPS, AND MORE

While assessment efforts have been ongoing at the College for many years, systematic information dissemination and reporting moved to new levels in Fall 2008 with the focus of the Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness and a new collaboration with the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (OIRA). The College's Institutional Effectiveness Committee (IEC) and the Academic Outcomes Assessment Committee (AOAC), both of which had precursor committees dating back to the mid-1990s, were reinvigorated and reconfigured.

OIRA and the Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness created an Assessment Matrix for the College during 2009, as a mechanism to collect and share assessment initiatives and accomplishments across academic departments. Starting with columns for the basics – mission statements, program goals, and self-studies – the format also included "Department/Program Assessment Schematics," the customized depictions of programs as described in the current Catalog. Schematics show the academic pathways through clusters of courses, revealing strategic points where assessment activity could take place. Once approved by program faculty, schematics are linked to the Matrix. The Assessment Matrix is available at www.library.csi.cuny.edu/assessment.

In an effort to make improvements based on our own assessments, the Matrix has evolved since it was first developed. The first major transformation occurred during Summer 2010 with the splitting of an "Assessment Information" column into "Assessment Plan" and "Data Collection," as departments reported their data-gathering efforts in more detail; further developments and progress are now resulting in additional changes. Stemming from a recent research project related to the Middle States self-study, learning goals for academic programs will soon be accessible through the Matrix. This refinement was facilitated by the work of Professor Tracey Jones, Department of Performing and Creative Arts. We appreciate Professor Jones's efforts to collect learning goals from academic programs across the campus.

The Assessment Matrix is a convenient resource for academic programs performing self-studies and researchers working on both the Middle States and Strategic Planning processes. It is developing as a centralized, dedicated site for storing and locating program-level assessment information at a glance. Matrix content is updated by the OIRA as frequently as possible, and is reviewed by department representatives at monthly AOAC meetings to make certain that entries are accurate. No information is included on this public website until the faculty members responsible for a program have approved it.

Non-academic support areas and offices around campus that participate on the Institutional Effectiveness Committee have expressed interest in a similar matrix adapted for their activities. The OIRA plans to embark on such a project in the near future.

We invite members of the College community to suggest improvements to the Assessment Matrix and other resources listed on the website of Office of the Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness. Please contact Associate Provost Susan Holak or Assessment Coordinator Warrick Bell for further information or to offer suggestions.



CLOSING THE LOOP: PHYSICAL THERAPY MAKES PROGRAM CHANGES TO INCREASE SUCCESS ON LICENSURE EXAM

The Physical Therapy Department has been actively involved in a very rigorous accreditation process under the auspices of the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). As part of that process, the department reviewed licensure examination pass rates for its graduate students and developed approaches to increase results. During various strategy sessions throughout the program, students are encouraged to take the examination no more than 3-4 months post-graduation, recent alumni are invited to address graduating students to offer test-taking approaches, and the department offers an annual seminar in preparation for the exam.

CAMPUS UPDATES

Business Department – The Business Department continued in its efforts to gather data from its graduating students, using the exit instrument that was featured during last year’s Day of Assessment. Due in large part to the efforts of Professor Rosane Gertner, the department now has a comprehensive 50-item instrument with which to better understand student perceptions across all the programs that Business offers. The department is using this survey to gather multi-year data, offering opportunities for longitudinal analysis. Comparisons between 2010 and 2009 indicate more favorable evaluations on 13 items, including “Personal Growth,” “Career Preparation,” and “CSI Overall Evaluation” dimensions. The department plans to continue administering the survey, keeping in mind efforts to maximize the response rate.

College-Wide Academic Outcomes Assessment Committee (AOAC) – This body has been actively discussing the College’s revised Guidelines for Academic Self-Studies and the recently-developed Guidelines for Research Center Self-Studies, offering valuable insights so that departments undertaking self-studies can more easily complete the process.

Assessment related to Library instruction and Information Literacy across campus has been an ongoing topic of the AOAC for well over a year. At its most recent meeting on February 24, Library representative Dr. Linda Rocco distributed a comprehensive brochure from the CSI Library dedicated both to this topic and to the Library as a campus resource.

Annual Day of Assessment – The 2011 CSI Day of Assessment will be held on Friday, April 8, from 9:00am to 4:00pm, in the Green Dolphin Lounge. Presentations highlighting assessment-related accomplishments from across the campus will include representatives from the Department of Modern Languages, the Office of the Vice President for Finance and Administration, and the Registrar’s Office. In addition, there will be a special mini-workshop session devoted to content analysis, and a presentation on the ongoing General Education Goals Map project undertaken by the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment in cooperation with the General Education Committee.

This year’s conference program will also feature a poster and information area focusing on assessment-related projects. If you are interested in having a poster featured during the event, please contact Warrick Bell at ext. 2086 or at warrick.bell@csi.cuny.edu for more information. As in the past, the event will be open to staff and faculty from CSI, other CUNY campuses, and regional institutions. To register for the Day of Assessment, please email Lucy Lombardo in the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment at lucy.lombardo@csi.cuny.edu or 718.982.2085. Please indicate whether you will be attending all or part of the day, if you can join us for the luncheon, and whether you have dietary restrictions.

FORTNIGHTLY NOTES

Since 1995, the Fairtrade Foundation in the UK has sponsored an annual Fairtrade **Fortnight** in late February and early March. The initiative brings producers, retailers, marketers, and other interested groups together in a nationwide campaign to promote sustainability and improved working conditions across the globe. More information is available at www.fairtrade.org.uk

Everyone is invited and encouraged to submit items related to departmental assessment projects, College institutional effectiveness activities, committee announcements, and best practices by **March 15, 2011**, for consideration to appear in the next communiqué.

