



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 MIDDLE STATES CHECKLIST: PREPARING DOCUMENTS FOR THE SITE VISIT

The two-plus-year process to research and develop the College of Staten Island Middle States Reaccreditation 2011-2012 Self-Study document is nearing its final stages. The seven Working Groups gathered documents and undertook research, and stored their materials using the SharePoint system as they drafted reports to address their assigned Middle States Standards. After the reports were submitted, a complementary process began which is expanding and organizing the supporting documentation for the entire Self-Study in formats convenient for our evaluation team visitors. The support and participation of academic departments and other offices on campus will be needed to facilitate this process.

Informed by material from Middle States conferences and input from other institutions, in Spring 2011 the Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness and the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment compiled a basic Middle States Checklist for academic departments and programs. The document was shared with the College-wide Academic Outcomes Assessment Committee, the Deans, and was also distributed at a General Chairs meeting. The checklist reflects items in The Assessment Matrix (Mission Statement, Department Assessment Schematic, Program Goals, Curriculum Map, Assessment Plan, Evidence of Data Collection, and Self-Study Reports) and additional program-level documents. Additional materials needed include documents relating to any faculty development initiatives, instructions for advisors, curricula vitae for all faculty members, and a syllabus from each course taught in recent semesters. Redacted samples of student work should be available to illustrate how assignments are assessed, including examples at varying levels of student ability. In addition, any program promotional materials (brochures, CDs, handbooks, etc.) will be needed for the repository; naturally these should also be on display or available in department offices during the team visit next April.

Checklists are being maintained for each academic department and program, noting progress on the collection of these Middle States materials. Items to be added can be forwarded in either electronic or hard copy to Warrick Bell in the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment, 1A-304, or warrick.bell@csi.cuny.edu.

COUNTDOWN TO THE MIDDLE STATES SITE VISIT: SIX MONTHS

The first complete draft version of the Self-Study report has been received from the external editor and distributed to the Steering Committee for comments and suggestions. The broader College community will have many opportunities to comment on the draft, which is now available at www.csi.cuny.edu/middlestates. The Steering Committee met on October 7 to review and discuss the draft, and to continue its work to oversee arrangements for the site visit next April. In the meantime, progress continues on the print and electronic repositories of supporting documents, as noted above.

Additionally, following the recommendations of the Middle States Special Resources Committee – a group focused on implementing the logistical aspects of hosting a site visit – Marilyn Ulrich in Buildings and Grounds is planning for fall bulb planting to ensure that the campus is as attractive as possible next April.



CAMPUS UPDATES

National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS) – Professor Carol Hartman, Director of the Medical Technology BS degree program, is nearing completion of the final documentation required for accreditation by NAACLS, demonstrating compliance with all 19 Core Standards and three additional Unique Standards. NAACLS is an international agency for the accreditation of educational programs in clinical laboratory sciences and related health professions. CSI previously held NAACLS accreditation for its Associate degree in Medical Laboratory Technology.

Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) – Dr. Susan Holak, Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness & Professor of Marketing, and Dr. Rosane Gertner, Assistant Professor of Marketing and the Business Department's representative to the College-wide Academic Outcomes Assessment Committee (AOAC), attended the AACSB's recent Accreditation Conference in Philadelphia. Over 500 colleagues from around the world were in attendance. As part of the event, Dr. Holak and Dr. Gertner participated in a pre-accreditation workshop to familiarize themselves with the 21 AACSB Standards of Accreditation; these Standards are grouped according to Mission (institutional purpose and resources), Participants (expectations, requirements, and levels of interaction for faculty and students), and Assurance of Learning.

CLOSING THE LOOP: BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT CHANGES PREREQUISITES FOLLOWING REVIEW OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE

The Biology Department recently changed the minimum entry requirements for the course and laboratory pair BIO 180/181, to require a minimum grade of C in the BIO 170/171 prerequisite pair. BIO 180/181 is the second pair of BIO courses taken by Biology majors, as well as by students in some related medical fields; students who are not planning to major in one of these fields are encouraged to take the BIO 106/107 and 108/109 pair sequence instead. This change was made after the Biology department observed that students who did not perform well in the first semester course set (BIO 170/171) have great difficulty passing or even completing one or both of the BIO180/181 courses.

CUNY NEWS AND EVENTS

In January 2011, Executive Vice-Chancellor Alexandra Logue convened a taskforce to examine options for replacing the CUNY Proficiency Exam, which was removed as a requirement for all CUNY students in November 2010. In part, the charge of the taskforce was to ensure that any recommended evaluation instruments were psychometrically sound and could also be compared to national benchmarks; other considerations included cost, and alignment with the broad goals of all CUNY colleges.

Since evaluating the spectrum of General Education goals across all 17 CUNY undergraduate colleges would be impossible, the taskforce began by identifying goals common to all: reading, critical thinking, written communication, quantitative reasoning, and information literacy. Rubrics relating to these five goals were adopted from the LEAP initiative (Liberal Education and American's Promise) of the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), as a convenient way of gauging the ability of several commercial instruments to evaluate students' mastery of these areas.

Having evaluated the Critical Thinking Assessment Test (CAT), the Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP), the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA) and the ETS Proficiency Profile (ETSPP) among other instruments, the recommendation of the taskforce – with some caveats – is that CUNY adopts the CLA as a means of understanding the performance of CUNY students on these five common goals. The final report of the taskforce was completed in August of this year, and is available at the University's Coordinated Undergraduate Education (CUE) webpage at www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/ue/cue.html.

FORTNIGHTLY NOTES

The Fortnight in September, a novel published by the playwright R. C. Sherriff in 1931, recounts and celebrates the "drama of the undramatic" through the story of a small suburban English family's annual holiday in a seaside town.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to submit items related to departmental assessment projects, College institutional effectiveness activities, committee announcements, and best practices by **October 21, 2011**, for consideration to appear in the next communiqué.

