

Tuskegee University Institutional Effectiveness Glossary

Accreditation: The designation that an institution earns indicating that it functions appropriately with respect to its resources, programs, and service

assessment review. It also includes the calendar cycle review of the college ¶ V P L V V L R Q statement, strategic plan and institutional effectiveness proce

Continuous improvement: Most accrediting bodies require institutional commitment to the concept of quality enhancement through continuous assessment and improvement. The assessment process is considered cyclic. (SACS)

Criteria: Standards by which student performance is evaluated; help assessors maintain objectivity and inform students about expectations.

Culture of assessment: An institutional characteristic that shows evidence for valuing and engaging in assessment for ongoing improvement.

Culture of evidence: According to Michael Middaugh, "Accrediting agencies —both at the institutional level and the programmatic level —are now operating in a culture of evidence that requires institutions to qualitatively and quantitatively demonstrate that they are meeting student learning goals and effectively marshalling human and fiscal resources toward that end."

Curriculum mapping: The process of scoping and sequencing content to identify gaps and redundancies. The mapping is used to improve the coherence of course content for the purpose of assessing the effectiveness of a program of study.

Direct measure: An assessment tool that provides tangible confirmation of student learning where it is clear that a specific learning competency is attained through visible and compelling evidence. Among the direct measures most commonly used are:

External examiner

Capstone projects, senior theses

Embedded questions

E-portfolio: A systematic and organized collection of a student's work that exhibits to others the direct evidence of a student's efforts, achievements, and progress over a period of time. The collection should involve the student in selection of its contents, and include assessment or grading information for the projects included in the portfolio. Portfolios are electronic and can be accessed online by the student, school officials, and others who have been granted permission, such as potential employers.

Evaluation: To determine the value of an instructional program, educational support service, or student learning outcome; interchangeable with assessment (Nichols).

Evaluation Plan: detail

Nichols Assessment Model: A widely used Assessment Model developed by James O. Nichols of Institutional Effectiveness Association

Objective: Smaller in scope than a goal, it is a measurable statement that must be achieved in order to obtain a goal and thus, be successful.

Objective measure: A score, grade, or evaluation that relies on a consistent predetermined range. It does not depend on subjective opinion.

Operational Outcome: A short-term goal whose attainment moves a unit towards achieving strategic or long-term goals. It is a clear, often measurable outcome of an



Rubric: A systematic, relatively objective scoring guideline used to evaluate student performance (e.g., papers, speeches, exams, portfolios) using a detailed description of performance standards. When students are made aware of r

Triangulation: (a.k.a. multiple measures) Usin

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