

# Assessment Review and TracDat V 4 Workshop

Office of Institutional Research, Planning and  
Assessment

# Introductions

- Dr. Joan Exline  
Associate Vice President for Institutional Research, Planning and Assessment
- Cecelia Martin  
Institutional Research

# Assessment?

- Identify intended outcomes for a degree program, department or other unit that support the mission of the division and the University
- Identify an assessment method to determine if the outcome was achieved
- Establish a measurable target or criterion
- Measure and report results
- Use the findings to take action and make improvements

# Why is assessment important?

- To continuously improve
- To be accountable to those we serve
- To maintain accreditation
  - SACS
  - Discipline specific accreditations

# SACS Principles

2.5 The institution engages in ongoing, integrated, and institution-wide research-based planning and evaluation processes that

- incorporate a systematic review of institutional mission, goals, and outcomes;
- result in continuing improvement in institutional quality; and
- demonstrate the institution is effectively accomplishing its mission

# SACS Principles

3.3.1 The institution identifies expected outcomes, assesses the extent to which it achieves these outcomes, and provides evidence of improvement based on analysis of the results in each of the following areas:

- educational programs, to include student learning outcomes
- administrative support services
- educational support services
- research within its educational mission, if appropriate
- community/public service within its educational mission, if appropriate

# Organization of TracDat

- Assessment Units
  - Program prefix –degree or certificate programs with student learning outcomes
  - Dept prefix – academic departments housing degree programs with intended outcomes that *support* student learning
  - Admin prefix – administrative departments, research centers, colleges/divisions and special initiatives/accreditations
- Summary Groups
  - Divisions/colleges
- University

# Questions You Should Ask.....

## Intended Outcomes

- Programs
  - What knowledge, skills, attitudes, etc., do you want students to have when they finish the degree program?
- Departments (academic)
  - What can we do to support student learning and the student learning environment?

Examples:

- Recruitment
- Retention
- Graduation
- Satisfaction
- Faculty
- Facilities

# Questions You Should Ask.....

## Intended Outcomes *continued*

- Administrative
  - What is the fundamental purpose of the unit? What do we want our customers to say or think about our services?  
Examples:
    - Types of services
    - Access
    - Quality
    - Responsiveness
  - What initiatives support the mission of the college/division and University?

Note: Use “historical” designation when an outcome isn’t being assessed this year

# Questions You Should Ask.....

## Assessment Methods and Cost

### Methods

- How can we measure our progress?
  - Direct - students demonstrate what they know
    - Portfolios or products
    - Pretest/posttest
    - Clinical evaluations
    - Capstone courses (use rubrics, not grades)
  - Indirect – students or others report what they know
    - Surveys
    - Success in the workplace, graduate school, etc
- Is it possible to use more than one assessment method?
- Is at least one method DIRECT?

### Projected Cost

- Are there costs that cannot be covered by normal operating expenses?
  - If yes, submit them for approval via TracDat

# Questions You Should Ask.....

## Criterion and Schedule

### Criterion

- What is your target level of achievement or how will you know you have been successful?

### Schedule

- When will you measure?
  - Stagger when appropriate
  - Don't always wait until year-end

# Questions You Should Ask.....

## Results

- What are the results for each intended outcome?  
Implications?
  - This response should be primarily numerical
  - If not numerical, note dates, etc, to explain how and when it was completed
- What actions should be taken to continuously improve if you did not meet the criterion?

# Next Steps

1. Enter results from the 2007-08 in the restructured assessment units
2. Review and update intended outcomes for 2008-09
3. Stay tuned as TracDat evolves and is refined this Fall

## Due Dates

- Academic - September 15
- Administrative – October 15

# TracDat v 4.0

Cecelia Martin