ACE Assessment Digest
OFFICE OF ASSESSMENT FOR CURRICULAR EFFECTIVENESS

ACE Assessment Digest | November 2021

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Program Assessment Spotlight: An Effective Infrastructure that Supports Program-level Assessment (Human Development)

Infrastructure for program assessment, including communication pathways, helps make evidence of student learning readily available for faculty and departments to use in decision-making.

WSU's Department of Human Development has developed its process of conducting and using undergraduate program assessment over many years and, as a result, was selected by WSU as a program assessment case study for WSU's NWCCU Mid-Cycle Evaluation visit in April 2021. The accreditation evaluation team was impressed with the "comprehensive, well-coordinated, and collaborative assessment infrastructure in place" for the BA in Human Development, a large undergraduate degree program offered on the Pullman, Vancouver, and Global campuses. » Read More …

New Resource: Quick Guide to Considering [CAPS] Assessment Reports for UCORE as Evidence for Degree Program Assessment

Our Quick Guide to Considering [CAPS] Assessment Reports for UCORE as Evidence for Degree Program Assessment is intended to help WSU programs and faculty consider [CAPS] Assessment Reports for UCORE as a potential source of evidence for degree program-level student learning outcomes assessment.

WSU's general education program, known as UCORE, helps students acquire broad knowledge of the wider world that complements the specialized focus of the major. Within the UCORE curriculum, [CAPS] courses carry a strong responsibility for providing culminating evidence of student achievement of WSU's Learning Goals of Undergraduate Education. As such, [CAPS] Assessment Reporting for UCORE is intended to gauge student learning on WSU's Learning Goals in the context of the UCORE curriculum at the near-graduation level.

As outlined in the required elements for [CAPS] courses, instructors submit a short [CAPS] Assessment Report for UCORE each semester. The report asks instructors to provide an overall holistic assessment of student performance of all students in their [CAPS] course (direct measure, using faculty expert judgement) for the WSU Learning Goals demonstrated in their course. See the Calendar of Fall 2021 Dates Related to Program Assessment (below), for more information about the general timeline for [CAPS] Assessment Reporting for UCORE.

2020 WSU Examples of Senior-level Direct Measures Collected at WSU

An effective system of assessing student achievement includes direct measures at the senior level, near graduation, providing information about what students are able to achieve at the end of the program. WSU expects programs to regularly collect senior-level direct measures of student learning, providing programs with information about learning outcomes achievement and experiences as students are completing the curriculum. Direct measures come in many forms and WSU encourages programs to choose measures that fit their needs and disciplinary expectations.

Each year, we compile selected examples of senior-level direct measures collected by WSU undergraduate degree programs, as reported in the annual undergraduate degree program assessment reports. The examples are intended to show a range of senior-level direct measures and are not intended to be exhaustive or show all measures collected by WSU programs.

WSU's NSSE 2021 Results Available, Including Disaggregated Reports for WSU Colleges and Academic Programs

Every two years, WSU participates in the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) to help assess senior and first-year student engagement in educational practices associated with high levels of learning and development. After each administration, our office collaborates with WSU's Office of Institutional Research to disaggregate results by major for undergraduate degree programs and colleges, focusing on responses from seniors, to provide information about the student perspective to help continually improve the learning experience for students.

These disaggregated NSSE reports are being distributed to WSU programs in which 10 or more certified senior majors responded to the 2021 NSSE. As you examine your 2021 NSSE results, we are available to answer questions and help programs interpret and use NSSE results. Our NSSE toolkit includes resources intended to help departments and programs as they interpret and use NSSE as an indirect measure for program-level assessment.

Linda Suskie's Tips for Getting NSSE (and Other Assessment) Results Used

One of Linda Suskie's treats this time of year is seeing the latest NSSE results. Because NSSE asks questions about specific experiences rather than satisfaction, the results are often "actionable." See Linda Suskie's blog with tips for putting NSSE results to good use.

FYI – Calendar of Fall 2021 Dates Related to Program Assessment

Month	Date	Activity
Aug	Early Aug	Spring 2021 [CAPS] instructors receive a pdf copy of their [CAPS] Assessment Report for UCORE from UCORE via email. *Note: Typically, assessment in a [CAPS] course for majors can contribute toward degree program level assessment of student learning – see our resource related to [CAPS] Assessment Reporting for UCORE as part of degree program assessment.*
	23rd	First day of instruction for the term.
Sept	21st	Deadline for undergraduate students to drop a course without record.
	Late Sept	Fall 2021 [CAPS] instructors receive an email from UCORE with initial information about [CAPS] Assessment Reporting for UCORE for the fall term.
Oct	1st	Fall submission deadline for major Curricular Change Requests for new and revised courses & new and revised requirements.
Nov	1st	Program assessment coordinators receive an email from ACE with information about 2021 Undergraduate Program Assessment Reporting, including the report planning sheet. ACE is also available to help assessment coordinators complete the report; contact us for additional information.
	19th	Deadline for undergraduate students to withdraw from a course.
Dec	Early Dec	Fall 2021 [CAPS] instructors receive their link to the [CAPS] Assessment Reporting for UCORE form in Qualtrics via email (i.e., reporting opens).
	10th	Last day of instruction for the term.
	Mid Dec	Program assessment coordinators receive an email from ACE with a unique link to their 2021 Undergraduate Program Assessment Reporting form in Qualtrics. Assessment coordinators can submit their report during the open reporting window — anytime from mid-Dec 2021 through Feb 2022.
	21st	Final grade submission ends.
Jan	7th	Fall 2021 [CAPS] Assessment Reports for UCORE are due (i.e., reporting closes).

ACE Support for Program Assessment Efforts

We work with colleges and programs to assess student learning towards the improvement of undergraduate degree programs. ACE also provides assessment support for university-wide undergraduate education, serving all colleges, campuses, and UCORE general education. See What We Do for more information, including our mission.