ACE Assessment Digest
OFFICE OF ASSESSMENT FOR CURRICULAR EFFECTIVENESS

ACE Assessment Digest | March 2025

In this issue:

Thank You: 2024 Undergraduate Degree Program Assessment Reporting

We'd like to extend our appreciation to all faculty and chairs/directors who invested time in undergraduate program assessment activities, as well as into annual degree program assessment reporting for 2024. In April, assessment coordinators and chairs/directors will receive a PDF copy of their final report via email for their continued use and archive. As we do each year, we will compile the data from the 2024 undergraduate program assessment reports and produce summaries for the university—keep an eye out for an announcement in a future issue of the ACE Assessment Digest! For more information about undergraduate program assessment reporting, including past summaries, visit our Annual Program Assessment Reporting webpages.

Guidance on the Use of Generative AI to Support Program-level Assessment Activities

Generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) tools have the potential to support a variety of program assessment activities throughout the assessment cycle. WSU's Office of the Provost supports the use of GenAI in work processes that can help faculty and staff be more efficient and effective. However, individuals must use GenAI responsibly with constant attention to the security of private and protected data. Responsible use includes making sure that users understand the applications and limitations of GenAI while also ensuring that any use of GenAI is done ethically and is consistent with university policies and regulations. See our Guidance on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence to Support Program-level Assessment intended to help WSU programs and faculty navigate these new opportunities in the context of program-level learning outcomes assessment activities.

Updated Quick Guide to Using Assessment to Inform Decision-making

Program assessment activities and data are intended to inform regular faculty reflection and discussion about effective teaching, learning, and curricula, and ultimately contribute to decision-making to support student learning. Our Quick Guide to Using Assessment to Inform Decision-making (PDF) has been updated to include two new appendices with resources to support WSU faculty and students:

- Appendix A: resources available to support WSU faculty in developing interventions to advance student learning on program learning outcomes
- Appendix B: academic support services available to WSU students that aim to advance student learning

We are available to collaborate with undergraduate programs to facilitate discussions related to using assessment to inform decision-making; contact us for information.

Reminder: Please Help Promote NSSE 2025 in March and April

In March and April, eligible seniors and first-year students on each WSU campus are receiving emails asking that they respond to the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). NSSE opened on March 3rd and remains open through the end of the semester; however, students must complete the survey by April 19th to be eligible for the drawings for the $100 Visa gift cards. Regular reminders to students in March and into April about NSSE would be greatly appreciated. The nsse.wsu.edu website has additional information about key dates and materials to help faculty and staff promote the NSSE 2023 survey at WSU, including:

- In-Class Promotion
- Digital Displays, Posters, and Social Media
- Newsletters and Other Mass Messaging

After each administration, our office collaborates with WSU's Office of Strategy, Planning, and Analysis (formerly the Office of Institutional Research) to disaggregate results for undergraduate degree programs and colleges, focusing on responses from seniors. These disaggregated NSSE reports are distributed to WSU programs in which 10 or more seniors respond to survey. See our webpage focused on NSSE for program-level assessment for more information.

Program Assessment Spotlight: Examining NSSE Results to Assess the Student Experience (Psychology)

In 2024, the Psychology Department reviewed 2023 NSSE results from their senior majors across all campuses alongside responses from all WSU seniors. Reviewing these NSSE results helped Psychology faculty examine the student experience in a variety of areas of interest, including:

- Students' participation in high impact practices, such as capstone and research experiences
- Students' perceived gains in various knowledge, skills, and abilities aligned with Psychology's program learning outcomes

Additionally, the Psychology faculty compared their NSSE results with the results from their internally developed senior exit survey and other available assessment data as part of a self-study for a comprehensive program review. The process of triangulating self-reported assessment data (to see if the same trends appear) can help increase the validity and credibility of the results. Triangulated findings can also provide more reliable evidence to help program faculty determine strengths and identify opportunities for improvement. >> Read More …

Program Assessment Spotlight: Using Curriculum Mapping to Inform Curricular Decisions (English)

Following a refresh of the program-level student learning outcomes (SLOs) for the BA in English by faculty, the Department of English undertook an initiative to update their curriculum maps for each of their major options. The Undergraduate Studies Committee, comprised of representatives from each option and campus, began by reviewing course-level SLOs from all required courses and aligning these with the updated program-level SLOs to draft revised curriculum maps using a template adapted from WSU's Office of Assessment for Curricular Effectiveness.

Then, in spring 2024, the department held a curriculum mapping retreat with faculty who teach core courses within all six major options and from all four campuses where the degree is offered. Faculty in each option worked to review and refine the curriculum maps and discuss the alignment of course-level and program-level SLOs. >> Read More …

Smith Teaching and Learning Grant Applications Due March 14

WSU's Vice Provost for Academic Engagement and Student Achievement is soliciting Smith Teaching and Learning Grant proposals around innovative ideas that enhance teaching and learning at WSU. The focus area for 2025-2026 encompasses a broad range of teaching and learning transformations, including those connected to program-level assessment. Successful proposals must address one or more of the Eight Principles of Effective Teaching outlined by the Center for Teaching and Learning at the University of Texas. For example, projects may address aligning program learning outcomes, assessments, and activities, scaffolding program learning outcomes across the curriculum, developing methods to assess program learning outcomes, and/or using program assessment data to support student learning and inform instruction.

Proposals, including a signed endorsement by the applicant's chair, can be submitted through an online application form through **March 14, 2025**. Smith grants will be awarded in amounts up to $5,000 and announced in early April. See the Request for Proposals (PDF) for more information.

Updating Program-level Student Learning Outcomes in the WSU Catalog

As outlined in the university's EPPM (PDF), undergraduate degree programs must publish program-level student learning outcomes (SLOs) in the WSU Catalog. If your program has recently updated its program-level SLOs, please inform the Office of the Registrar by completing the following steps:

1) Copy and paste the current presentation of your program's SLOs from the catalog into a Word document
2) Use track changes (or strikethrough and underline) to update the document to reflect the program's new SLOs
3) Email the document to wsu.catalog@wsu.edu and CC your chair/director

Alternatively, programs can update their program-level SLOs in the WSU catalog through the annual call for updates from the Office of the Registrar, typically sent in late spring to the administrative officer of each academic unit.

Transitions in the Faculty Assessment Coordinator Role in Your Department, School, or Program for AY 2025-26

If you will no longer be serving in the Faculty Assessment Coordinator role for an undergraduate degree for AY 2025-26, or are aware of personnel changes in the Faculty Assessment Coordinator role for AY 2025-26 for your department, school, or program, please let us know at ace.office@wsu.edu.

FYI – WSU's Upcoming Regional Accreditation Visit

Program-level assessment is key to WSU's demonstration of regular and systematic assessment as required by our regional accreditor, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). Next spring, WSU will begin drafting the self-study for its Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness (EIE) comprehensive review, which includes standards related to student learning, curriculum, and assessment, in advance of a peer evaluation visit in spring 2027. One goal of annual undergraduate program assessment reporting at WSU is to document regular assessment activities and uses to help meet these accreditation standards. Reports submitted by undergraduate programs in recent years, as well as the reports due next February about 2025 activities, will provide key evidence to demonstrate an effective, regular, and comprehensive system of assessment of student achievement.

FYI – Calendar of Spring 2025 Dates Related to Program Assessment

Month	Date	Activity
Dec	**Mid Dec**	Program assessment coordinators receive an email from ACE with a unique link to their 2024 Undergraduate Program Assessment Reporting form in Qualtrics. Assessment coordinators can submit their report during the open reporting window — anytime from mid-Dec 2024 through Feb 2025.
Jan	**3rd**	Fall 2024 [CAPS] Assessment Reports for UCORE are due (i.e., reporting closes).
	6th	First day of instruction for the spring term.
Feb	**1st**	Spring submission deadline for major Curricular Change Requests for new and revised courses.
	Early Feb	Fall 2024 [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.
	4th	Deadline for undergraduate students to drop a course without record.
	Late Feb	[CAPS] instructors receive an email with initial information about [CAPS] Assessment Reporting for UCORE for the spring term.
	28th	2024 Undergraduate Program Assessment Reports are due (i.e., reporting closes). Assessment coordinators (or another knowledgeable assessment contact) need to be available to answer questions until March 31.
March	**3rd**	NSSE 2025 opens at WSU. Faculty and staff can help promote NSSE to seniors and first-year students on all WSU campuses.
April	**11th**	Deadline for undergraduate students to withdraw from a course.
	Mid to Late April	Each program will receive a PDF copy of their final 2024 Undergraduate Program Assessment Report from ACE for their continued use and archive.
	Late April	Spring 2025 [CAPS] instructors receive their link to the [CAPS] Assessment Reporting for UCORE form (i.e., reporting opens).
	25th	Last day of instruction for the term.
May	**6th**	Final grade submission ends.
	15th	Spring 2025 [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 learning outcomes 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. ACE's Assessment Specialists are happy to answer any questions and consult with programs on their assessment efforts! For information about who to contact, see our ACE Staff page.

ACE Assessment Digest is a bite-sized email, sent twice a semester, communicating timely information about undergraduate program assessment at WSU (ACE Assessment Digest Archive). To send feedback, tips, or to opt out, email ace.office@wsu.edu.