

# ACE Assessment Digest

OFFICE OF ASSESSMENT FOR CURRICULAR EFFECTIVENESS



## ACE Assessment Digest | September 2025

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### Fall Welcome and Transitions in the Faculty Assessment Coordinator Role in Your Department, School, or Program

As the fall semester moves into full swing, we look forward to opportunities to support your work on program-level assessment of student learning! If you are no longer serving in the faculty assessment coordinator role for an undergraduate degree, or are aware of personnel changes in the faculty assessment coordinator role, for your department, school, or program, please let us know at [ace.office@wsu.edu](mailto:ace.office@wsu.edu).

### Inaugural Assessment Champion Award Recognizes Samantha Swindell

In April 2025, we were delighted to recognize Samantha Swindell, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences and Career Track Professor in the Department of Psychology, with the inaugural Assessment Champion Award in recognition of her long-standing support and partnership in advancing undergraduate program assessment at WSU. Presented at the DAESA Awards Ceremony, the Assessment Champion Award honors faculty and staff members who promote meaningful undergraduate program assessment efforts that support student learning.

Dr. Swindell provides outstanding leadership and masterfully communicates the value of program assessment, establishing partnerships with colleagues at multiple levels across the university and across campuses. She regularly engages with faculty assessment coordinators, chairs/directors, advisors, and others to help meet program needs, address challenges, and celebrate successes. [>> Read More ...](#)

### Summaries of 2024 Undergraduate Degree Program Assessment Reports Available to Support Planning and Decision-making

Each summer, we review data from the undergraduate assessment reports submitted by programs and produce summaries for the institution, as well as for our university-wide archives that provide evidence of assessment activities in support of university accreditation. Again this year, we are providing 2024 annual undergraduate program assessment reporting summary dashboards for the university using Tableau, including a [WSU-wide and College View](#) and an [Individual Program View](#), available to WSU employees (log-in required). A [WSU-wide executive summary for 2024](#), intended to summarize the university-wide data presented in the Tableau dashboards, is also available for the broader WSU community, as well as the public.

Another goal of the undergraduate program assessment reporting summaries is to help programs, leadership, and ACE identify needs and next steps. Each year, ACE reviews the report data and summaries and meets with program, college, campus, and university leadership to discuss potential actions that can support program assessment. [>> Read More ...](#)

### 2024 Examples of Use of Program Assessment to Inform Decision-Making at WSU

WSU undergraduate degree programs are responsible for regularly using learning outcomes assessment to support decision-making related to curriculum, instruction, assignments, and program assessment processes. Each year, we compile [selected examples of how WSU programs in various disciplines have used assessment to inform decisions](#), as reported in the annual undergraduate degree program assessment reports. The examples, like the annual program reports themselves, look at key or representative activities and uses, and are not intended to be exhaustive or show all uses of assessment results by WSU programs.

### Program Assessment Spotlight: Faculty-Driven Assessment Spurs Curricular Decision-making (Electrical Engineering and Computer Science)

Key principles of effective program-level assessment include intentionally aligning activities and measures with program-level student learning outcomes (SLOs) and engaging faculty in meaningful reflection and decision-making. When these elements are in place, assessment becomes more than a reporting requirement—it becomes a tool for continuous improvement that supports student learning and curricular coherence.

The School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science offers a strong example of this kind of intentional, faculty-driven program assessment. As part of its ABET-accredited continuous improvement process, the school collects and analyzes direct evidence of student learning across its five degree programs and three locations (Pullman, Everett, and Bremerton) on a set of unified learning outcomes with performance indicators tailored to each degree program, in targeted courses across the curriculum. The school’s Assessment Committee dedicates nearly two weeks at the end of each spring semester to reviewing student deliverables collected throughout the academic year. This includes evaluating student work using shared rubrics and performance indicators aligned to specific SLOs. [>> Read More ...](#)

### Program Assessment Spotlight: Collaborative Activities to Engage Faculty in Reflecting on Core Skills & Knowledge Expected for Majors (Physics)

Effective degree programs are guided by clearly defined program-level student learning outcomes (SLOs), or the core skills and knowledge that students are expected to achieve upon successful completion of the degree program or major, which help faculty design an intentional and coherent curriculum and undergraduate educational experience. At the end of the Spring 2025 semester, faculty in the Department of Physics and Astronomy convened a departmental retreat focused entirely on the undergraduate program. Through a series of individual, small- and large-group brainstorming sessions, faculty engaged in a comprehensive reevaluation of the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and traits they believe are essential for today’s physics graduates. This collaborative effort, planned and facilitated by the department’s Undergraduate Studies Committee aimed to ensure that the program’s learning outcomes reflect the evolving demands of the discipline, industry, and graduate education, and to inform the ongoing curricular restructuring efforts undertaken by the department. [>> Read More ...](#)

### New Examples in Our Assessment Plans Toolkit

An assessment plan articulates a program’s intended process and timeline for conducting program assessment activities, including collecting, analyzing, and using program assessment data. Assessment plans also help communicate various roles and responsibilities of program leadership and faculty in the assessment process.

Our [Assessment Plans toolkit](#) includes resources intended to help programs and faculty as they develop or update their program assessment plan, including our:

- [Quick Guide to Program Assessment Plans \(PDF\)](#)
- [Program Assessment Plan Template \(DOCX\)](#)
- [Program Assessment Plan Mockup \(DOCX\)](#)
- [WSU Examples of Assessment Plans – NEW EXAMPLES!!](#)

We are also available to collaborate with undergraduate degree programs to develop or update program assessment plans; [contact us](#) for additional information.

### NSSE 2025 Results Disaggregated for WSU Colleges and Academic Programs Available This Fall

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 responses from senior majors for undergraduate degree programs and colleges to provide information about the student perspective to help continually improve the learning experience for students.

This fall, these disaggregated NSSE reports will be distributed to WSU programs in which 10 or more senior majors responded to the 2025 NSSE. As you examine your 2025 NSSE results, we are available to answer questions and help programs interpret and use NSSE results for program learning outcomes assessment. 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.

### FYI – WSU’s Upcoming Institutional Accreditation Visit

Program-level assessment is key to WSU’s demonstration of regular and systematic assessment as required by our institutional accreditor, the [Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities \(NWCCU\)](#). This 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 in February about 2025 activities, will provide key evidence to demonstrate an effective, regular, and comprehensive system of assessment of student achievement.

### FYI – Calendar of Fall 2025 Dates Related to Program Assessment

Month	Date	Activity
Aug	Mid Aug	Spring 2025 [CAPS] instructors receive a pdf copy of their <a href="#">[CAPS] Assessment Report for UCORE</a> from UCORE via email. <i>Note: Typically, assessment in a [CAPS] course for majors can contribute toward degree program assessment of student learning – see our resource related to <a href="#">[CAPS] Assessment Reporting for UCORE as part of degree program assessment</a>.</i>
	18 <sup>th</sup>	First day of instruction for the fall term.
Sept	16 <sup>th</sup>	Deadline for undergraduate students to drop a course without record.
	Late Sept	Fall 2025 [CAPS] instructors receive an email from UCORE with initial information about <a href="#">[CAPS] Assessment Reporting</a> for the fall term.
Oct	1 <sup>st</sup>	Fall submission deadline for major <a href="#">Curricular Change Requests</a> for new and revised courses & new and revised requirements.
	31 <sup>st</sup>	Program assessment coordinators receive an email from ACE with information about <a href="#">2025 Undergraduate Program Assessment Reporting</a> , including the report planning sheet. ACE is also available to help assessment coordinators complete the report; <a href="#">contact us</a> for information.
Nov	14 <sup>th</sup>	Deadline for undergraduate students to withdraw from a course.
Dec	Early Dec	Fall 2025 [CAPS] instructors receive their link to the <a href="#">[CAPS] Assessment Reporting for UCORE</a> form in Qualtrics via email (i.e., reporting opens).
	5 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of instruction for the term.
	Mid Dec	Assessment coordinators receive an email from ACE with a link to their <a href="#">2025 Undergraduate Program Assessment Reporting</a> form in Qualtrics. Assessment coordinators can submit their report during the open reporting window — anytime from mid-Dec 2025 through Feb 2026.
	16 <sup>th</sup>	Final grade submission ends.
Jan	9 <sup>th</sup>	Fall 2025 <a href="#">[CAPS] Assessment Reports for UCORE</a> 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.