

College of Arts and Sciences

Assessment Committee

Spring 2022

Report

Committee Chair: Open

Committee Members: Alana Bibeau, Crystal Greene,
James Horban, Martha Waitkun, Michael Barrus,
Ping Xu, Stephanie West-Puckett

Ex Officio: Nedra Reynolds

FULL Reports Due
Undergrad Accredited
Chemistry, BA, BS; Chemistry & Forensic Chemistry, BS
Music, BA, BM
Undergrad Non-Accredited
Africana Studies, BA
Art and Art History, BA
Computer Science, BA/BS
Economics, BA, BS
Film Media, BA
History, BA
International Studies and Diplomacy, BS (first report)
Journalism, BA
Mathematics, BA, BS
Physics, BA, BS and Physical Oceanography, BS
Political Science, BA
Public Relations, BA
Grad Non-Accredited
Communication Studies, MA
English MA, PhD
Political Science, MPA

INTERIM Reports Due
Undergrad Non-Accredited
Anthropology BA
Art Studio BFA
Chinese BA
Communication Studies BA
English BA
French BA
Gender & Women's Studies BA
German BA
Italian BA
Philosophy BA
Sociology BA
Spanish BA
Sports Media and Communications BA
Theatre BA/BFA
Writing & Rhetoric BA
Grad Non-Accredited
Computer Science MS, PhD
Cyber Security Professional Science MS
History MA
Statistics MS

- **Assessment report due for these programs in May or June this year.**
- All programs should have received reminders from the Assessment Office.

CONQUERING ASSESSMENT WITH COFFEE, COOKIES & CONVERSATION

**Arts & Sciences Assessment Coordinators and Chairs:
Let's get those assessment reports done!**

You are invited to join us for coffee, COOKIES, and conversation
while making progress on assessment reports.

Tuesday, May 10th, 2022 @ 10:00am—12:00pm
Wednesday, May 11th, 2022 @ 1:00pm—3:00pm
(Both Sessions in Hardge Forum)

JUST STOP BY ...

Share ideas and collaborate with one another in this important yet sometimes
challenging (and lonely) process. Share what works, and what doesn't work. Learn
about assessment resources that are available to everyone and take a look at some
exemplary assessment reports.

Come in, grab a refreshment and just say hello, or stay and get help tackling
assessment reports that are due in May.



Request to change
Assessment report cycle
from 2 years to 3 years!

We drafted an official
request letter to the
Assessment Office.

We will collect signatures
at the Coffee and Cookie
Events on 5/10 & 5/11

Dear Assessment Office,

We would like to first thank your office for the wonderful mentorship and partnership that you have generously provided to all programs in the College of Arts and Sciences, which helped improve the quality of our assessment work immensely. Over the past few years, the College of Arts and Sciences' Assessment Committee has discussed the report cycle issue many times. We would like to make a formal request to your office to see if you could please change the assessment report review cycle from 2 years to 3 years. This change will potentially benefit all of us for a few important reasons:

First, with the current two-year cycle, there is a lack of time for planning, data collection, data analysis, writing up a meaningful report on the selected learning objectives. More importantly, there is almost no time for programs to reflect upon the assessment evidence and come up with suggestions for change. Adding an extra third year will allow programs sufficient time for meaningful "self-study" or "self-reflection" and help them effectively "close the loop."

Second, with the pandemic, faculty and staff all feel overwhelmed by the increase of work and family responsibilities. Many assessment coordinators feel rushed in a 2-year cycle, some of them even feel trapped in the role of assessment coordinators. Adding an extra year in the cycle would relieve some of the stress felt by the assessment coordinators. More importantly, it can allow mentoring and a passing of the torch in the third year, which will make our college have more faculty members being better prepared for assessment work.

Third, many departments and programs felt that it is important to integrate their assessment report cycle with their departmental external review cycle. Departmental external reviews are held once every 6 years. Changing the assessment cycle into 3 years will make departments align their assessment efforts and departmental review efforts.

Fourth, we have carefully reviewed the NECHE standards, which suggests that each institution should "regularly and systematically [evaluate] the achievement of its mission and purposes...Information obtained through this evaluation is used to revise these efforts and services and improve their achievement." NECHE only emphasizes regular and systematic assessment work, but does not necessarily state that a 2-year cycle is better than a 3-year cycle. We feel that a 3-year assessment cycle will not only allow us to make quality improvements in our assessment work, but also help relieve the stress of assessment coordinators.

As a college, we have had discussions on this issue for a few years, and we felt that now is the good time to make a change like this. With the pandemic, your office has made interim reports as an option. We hope that you can change the interim report track and make it a third year to be added into a full report cycle.

Respectfully,

College of A&S Assessment Committee