



Assessment & Accreditation

Assessment Matters



Fall 2015

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As the winds of fall moving into winter blow through western New York so are the winds of change blowing through the accreditation landscape. Congress and the U.S. Department of Education continue their scrutiny of higher education and regional accreditors are being held to higher standards of accountability.

Many changes are coming from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, our regional accreditor. The fourteen (14) Standards of Excellence that Buffalo State reported on in the last self-study have been reduced to seven (7). Most notably, assessment has been explicitly woven into **all** of the new standards and is no longer found in only two separate standards. So, we need to have processes in place to illustrate that assessment is part of the strategic planning process, budget allocation, student affairs, enrollment, and of course most importantly, student learning outcomes.

At the same time that these new standards are being implemented, Middle States is proposing new re-accreditation processes. The current process of 10 year self-study/team visit with a mid-term (5 year) Periodic Review Report (PRR) has been in place for 50 years! Middle States has a conceptual proposal to shorten the self-study/team visit to an eight (8) year cycle, eliminate the PRR but require expanded/augmented yearly reporting in the Institutional Profile. The data/information in the yearly reports will be warehoused at Middle States and feedback provided to the campus mid-way through the re-accreditation cycle.

These changes to process will be voted upon by the Middle States Commission at the end of November and then sent out to a vote by all campuses.

More to come...

Meanwhile, happy and safe holidays to all of you from the Assessment and Accreditation Office.

Rosalyn Lindner, AVP
Assessment and Accreditation
ALO, Middle States



FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

APRIL 18-20, 2016

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO, AMHERST, NY

On behalf of the ANNY Board of Directors, we invite you to submit a proposal for presentation at our **Fourth Annual Conference** which will be held at the University at Buffalo in Amherst, NY from **April 18-20, 2016**.

This year's theme is "**Innovation in Assessment**". Our aim is to provide engaging presentations on assessment of teaching and learning, creating connections between course and program assessment, designing effective assessment tools, assessment of student affairs and the impact of assessment on institutional planning and effectiveness.

To submit a proposal, please complete the **PROPOSAL FORM**.

All proposals must be submitted by **February 1, 2016**. For information on the submission guidelines and presentation format please consult the attached announcement.

Presenters with accepted proposals will be given a 20% discount on the conference registration fee. For more information about the conference, please visit <http://assessmentnetworkny.org/events/>

[conference/](http://assessmentnetworkny.org/events/conference/).



The Assessment and Curriculum Office is located in Cleveland Hall 513.

Rosalyn Lindner
Associate VP
878-5915

KimMarie Markel
Assessment Assoc.
878-5010

Assessment Advisory Board 2015-2016

<u>Chair:</u>	Rosalyn Lindner, AVP, Assessment and Curriculum
<u>Members:</u>	Shannon Budin, Associate Professor, Exceptional Education
	Jill D'Angelo, Associate Professor, Criminal Justice
	Kelly Frothingham, Associate Professor and Chair, Geography and Planning
	Eugene Harvey, Assessment/Reference Librarian, E.H. Butler Library
	Carlos Jones, Associate Dean, School of Arts and Humanities
	Meg Knowles, Associate Professor, Communication
	Christine Lai, Assistant Professor, Business
	Karen O'Quinn, Associate Dean, School of Natural and Social Sciences
	Elizabeth Szockyj, Associate Professor, Criminal Justice
	Amitra Wall, Assistant Dean, Intellectual Foundations
	Rita Zientek, Associate Dean, School of Professions

Announcements

From the AAB :

1. Need Help Writing SLO's? Don't know how to establish standards for assessment?

The AAB has developed a series of "Just in Time" video tutorials for faculty who are developing curriculum or working on assessment in their programs. We all know how difficult it can be to find time to attend a workshop especially when you only have a question about one specific point. So, now you can find the answer(s) from the comfort of your office or home. The following videos are now available:

- ◆ [Student and Course Level Assessment](#)
- ◆ [Department and Program Level Assessment](#)
- ◆ [Establishing Program Standards](#)
- ◆ [Creating Curriculum Maps](#)
- ◆ [Writing SLOs Part I](#)
- ◆ [Writing SLOs Part II](#)

2. Assessing Assessment

Last year, the Assessment Advisory Board conducted a review of assessment information posted on-line for all undergraduate programs. This is a review process of assessing assessment is completed every five years. Middle States and the Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA) both require that assessment be transparent and readily available to students. The AAB used a rubric for assessing assessment plans, curriculum maps and road maps. Results were shared with the Dean's offices and members of the AAB have volunteered to offer their help if any department has questions or needs help.

SCoA Offers On-line SUNY Certificates in Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness

The SUNY Council on Assessment (SCoA) has developed an Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes and Institutional Effectiveness Certificate Programs which are open to all faculty and staff. The SLO non-credit certificate program is designed to have participants:

- ◆ learn how to develop learning outcomes,
- ◆ use rubrics and other assessment tools
- ◆ identify strategies for using results to improve the academic experience for students and faculty.

It consists of a series of 3 courses: Assessment for Improvement of Teaching and Learning; Planning and Implementing an Assessment of Student Learning; and Closing the Loop: Using Assessment Results for improvement.

The Institutional Effectiveness Certificate is designed to have participants:

- ◆ establish departmental goals which are aligned with the strategic plan
- ◆ demonstrate knowledge of assessment of processes and services
- ◆ recognize sources of data for peer analysis and benchmarking
- ◆ participate in evaluation of campus' current institutional/unit-level effectiveness
- ◆ document evidence of closing the loop and institutional improvement as a result of assessment activities

For detailed information and to register, please go to: <http://www.cvent.com/d/k4qfrr>.

NEWS FROM ANNY



Assessment Network of New York

<http://assessmentnetworkny.org/>

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

<http://assessmentnetworkny.org/registration/>

**Assessment Network of New York's
Winter 2016 Regional Event
ASSESSMENT BOOT CAMP**

The Assessment Network of New York (ANNY) is proud to partner with the University at Buffalo to offer its members the opportunity to participate in an assessment boot camp. Learn everything you need to know about assessment from basic assessment training to sharing and using your data! This is a great three-day session facilitated by Kimberly Yousey-Elsener, Director of Assessment and Evaluation for University Life and Services at the University at Buffalo. This event recently won the SUNY Chief Student Affairs Officers Programming Award. You definitely won't want to miss this!

**January 13—15, 2016
University at Buffalo**

2015-2016 Campus Assessment Activities and Information

◆ **SUNY SOS (Student Opinion Survey)**

Once again Buffalo State participated in the system-wide SUNY Student Opinion Survey. This survey is conducted every 3 years with undergraduates and allows comparison between Buffalo State and the other SUNY comprehensive colleges. The 2015 results are the best comparative results we've posted! Financial aid came in first amongst the SUNY comprehensive colleges for the second straight time. Congratulations for a fine job done. Also coming in first was our college computer network, student input into college policies and plans and the clarity of rules governing student conduct.

For other areas of satisfaction that also score very well, and to see all of the results, please go to:

<http://bscintra.buffalostate.edu/assessment/reports1516.htm>.

◆ **NSSE**

The National Survey of Student Engagement was also conducted last spring. This survey was sent to freshmen and seniors. Many of the questions in the 2015 survey were either tweaked or completely changed (including additions/deletions) to update NSSE. Some of the important additions to this year's report are high-impact practices and critical thinking/analytic reasoning. For a snapshot of the results for academic challenge, learning with Peers, experiences with faculty and campus environment go to: <http://bscintra.buffalostate.edu/assessment/reports1516.htm>.

◆ **FSSE**

Along with the NSSE, the Faculty Survey of Student Engagement was sent to all full-time faculty members last spring. The FSSE mirrors the NSSE in most ways. The value faculty placed on high-impact practices was asked. Buffalo State faculty valued culminating senior experiences the most highly, followed closely by internships or field experiences, and in order-- research with faculty, service-learning, learning communities and study abroad.

For full results, go to: <http://bscintra.buffalostate.edu/assessment/reports1516.htm>.

◆ **The IF (Intellectual Foundations) Dashboard** has been updated: <http://bscintra.buffalostate.edu/assessment/GenEdDashboard.pdf>

◆ **CSRDE 2014-2015 Retention and Graduation Benchmarking**

Buffalo State continues to participate in the Consortium for Student Retention Data Exchange (CSRDE) along with hundreds of other institutions of higher education. The CSRDE provides valuable information on retention and graduation rates for undergraduate full time first-time freshmen from cohorts over the last ten years. The CSRDE report provides an opportunity to benchmark with other public and peer institutions as designated by SUNY and Buffalo State. [Read the full report on the Assessment website](#)



Assessment Resources

The Toolbox, The Toolbox is an online professional development newsletter offering innovative, learner-centered strategies

for empowering college students to achieve greater success. The newsletter is published six times a year by the National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina. The online subscription is free. To register for newsletter alerts and access back issues, please visit www.sc.edu/fye/toolbox.

ASSESSMENT RESOURCES ON THE WEB

"Internet Resources for Higher Education Outcomes Assessment"

<http://www2.acs.ncsu.edu/UPA/assmt/resource.htm>

This web site / list currently has about 800 links, including over 300 college and university assessment sites.

Visit the Association for Assessment of Higher Education, Inc at <http://aalhe.org>



Looking for a Report?

Visit our web site:

<http://bscintra.buffalostate.edu/assessment>

Information on Major Program

Assessment and Review can be found here:

