

*In this issue >>>*

*What is Assessment?*

*What is the Assessment procedure?*

*Who is the Assessment Committee?*

*What is New with Assessment?*

Fall 2023 Semester Newsletter

Assessment of Student Learning and Institutional Assessment

# SSC Assessment Committee News

**Welcome to the first *Assessment of Student Learning Committee Campus Newsletter!* Our goal is to educate staff, faculty, and students on SSC's assessment practices and all the great work that is being done to enhance student and institutional success!**

**Please enjoy our first edition of many!**



## ***What is Assessment of Student Learning?***

**SSC's Assessment of Student Learning is a dynamic, comprehensive process.** Assessment of Student Learning is designed to create and sustain a culture of learning on campus. SSC views assessment as a vital process that provides a way for the college to evaluate its educational philosophy and its methods of providing a quality educational experience for students. Most importantly, it focuses on student learning and the learning environment at SSC. The primary goal of the Assessment of Student Learning is to continuously improve learning and achievement. An effective institutional assessment process measures the specific outcomes for students as a group and addresses the attainment of Degree Program and General Education Outcomes by students as an aggregate, as explained in SSC's Assessment of Student Learning and Institutional Assessment Procedure, available on the SSC [Office of Institutional Effectiveness webpage](#).

## ***What is SSC's Student Learning Assessment Procedure?***

**SSC's Assessment procedure consists of six overlapping levels:**

1. Entry-Level Assessment,
2. Assessment of General Education,
3. Degree Program Assessment, Evaluation and Review,
4. Assessment of Student Engagement and Satisfaction,
5. Assessment of Co-Curricular Activities, and
6. Institutional Assessment of Non-Academic Activities.

More information about each of these levels of assessment can be found in the **2023-2024 Assessment of Student Learning and Institutional Assessment Procedure Manual** on the SSC [Office of Institutional Effectiveness webpage](#).

## What is New with Assessment?

### *Co-curricular and Institutional Assessment*

Last spring, SSC piloted for the first time several successful [co-curricular and institutional assessment](#) projects to meet the requirements of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) to measure and provide continuous quality improvement by assessing all departments on campus – academic and non-academic in nature. Wendy Rich's Agriculture and Dr. Andrew Davis's Phi Theta Kappa Clubs participated in co-curricular assessment; the Online Division Office, Business and Industry and Financial Aid Office participated in institutional assessment.

This fall, everyone who participated last year will continue to do a co-curricular and institutional assessment project this year. New clubs and organizations that are participating this year include Psi Beta and Future Business Leaders of America. The new departments participating in institutional assessment for this year include the Food Pantry and Boren Library.

### *The Higher Learning Commission*

The [Higher Learning Commission](#) (HLC) is an independent corporation that was founded in 1895 as one of seven regional accreditors in the United States. HLC accredits degree-granting post-secondary educational institutions in the United States. Through HLC's Pathways for Reaffirmation of Accreditation, accredited institutions complete periodic reviews on a 10-year cycle to ensure they continue to meet the Criteria for Accreditation and pursue institutional improvement. SSC participates in the [Open Pathway 10-year review cycle](#). HLC allows us to keep our doors open! ☺

SSC is in year 4 of the 10-year review process. In year 4, institutions complete an Assurance Review to ensure they are continuing to meet HLC's Criteria for Accreditation. Since last spring, Administration, Division Chairs, several faculty, and staff have teamed up to write to each Criterion and will submit the Assurance Filing next spring that demonstrates SSC is in compliance with the Criteria and has pursued institutional improvement efforts. Stay tuned for more information as we creep closer to the submission date!

## Who is the SSC Assessment Committee?

SSC's Assessment Committee consists of representatives from each of the college's academic divisions and support offices, and includes faculty, staff, and administrators.

### **SSC's 2023-24 Assessment of Student Learning Committee Members:**

- Dr. Amanda Estey, Vice-President of Academic Affairs
- Jarrod Tollett, Coordinator of Assessment, Professor of Math/Science/Engineering, STEM
- Jessica Isaacs, Professor of Language Arts, LAH
- Tammy Kasterke, Division Chair, Assistant Professor of Business, BE
- Sheila Morris, Registrar, Student Support Services
- Julie Hix, Comptroller, Fiscal Affairs
- Samuel Rivera, Division Chair, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, SS
- Kelly Hankal, Director of Medical Laboratory Technology Program, HS
- Wendy Slusher-Rich, Assistant Professor of Agriculture, STEM
- Laura Votaw, Coordinator of Distance Education, Academic Affairs
- Dr. Deanna Miles, Accreditation Coordinator, Assistant Professor of STEM, STEM