

Assessment Language Glossary for Academic & Support Services

Actions

This refers to the specific measures and strategies a program should consider and implement to enhance student learning, streamline program operations, and potentially improve the assessment process. Focus on one or two action items each year and decide when the action will be implemented and who will be responsible for follow-up. After implementing the action, reassess the outcome to determine the effectiveness of the action.

Analysis of Results

Analyzing or interpreting results means looking closely at the information gathered during assessments. This step-by-step process helps find important insights, spot patterns, trends, and connections, and then come to clear conclusions.

Artifact

Something provided by the department to indicate assessment activities; for example, providing us with the file of a survey you conducted, a meeting minutes document, or any other materials utilized for assessment purposes. It is often used as the associated evidence of the assessment method.

Assessment Cycle

The sequence in which assessment is performed (in an ongoing loop):

1. Plan and identify outcomes
2. Collect data
3. Analyze data
- 4.

USA to evaluate the outcomes for potential trends. They should be methods that provide information that can be directly controlled by the department.

Compliance

The assessment report is compliant if it is in line with the Principles of Accreditation put forth by SACSCOC (standard 8.2.c). The purpose of determining compliance is to ensure educational quality, improve the effectiveness of USA, and fulfill requirements for the Office of Institutional Effectiveness.

Criterion

Criteria are established to measure success for the assessment method. These are standards that provide evidence of achievement of the intended outcome. The criterion must cite

Outcome Year(s)

The outcome year is the academic year(s) in which the intended outcome was assessed. For example, the outcome year 18-19 would include the semesters Fall of 2018, Spring of 2019, and Summer of 2019.

Results

Your results should describe how