The University of Wyoming (UW) Assessment Matrix: Using Technologies to Advance Assessment

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Assessment for student learning opens the door for meaningful engagement into what, how and why learning occurs for all learners; this in turn, informs practice, pedagogy and curricula to better support all students.

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UW Office of Assessment:

• Office of Assessment is located in the Ellbogen Center for Teaching & Learning (ECTL)
• Office of Assessment has developed, along with many campus partners, a new UW Institutional Assessment Plan for Student Learning (link)
  • June 2023 Undergraduate Programs were asked to submit Program Curriculum Maps as part of their Assessment Reports
  • July 2024 Graduate Programs are being asked to submit Program Curriculum Maps
• In Fall 2022 the UW Assessment Matrix Pilot Program begins (initial phase includes six programs that were recruited to participate)
  • Learning Design & Technology Graduate Program (LDT) | UW Honors College | American Sign Language Certificate Program (ASL) | Gender & Women’s Studies Undergraduate Program (GWST) | University Studies Program (USP2015)
  • All programs are at various stages in this work (student learning outcomes development, utilizing Bloom’s Taxonomy, curriculum mapping, assessment measures, gathering information/data from within programs and departments).
UW Assessment Matrix Pilot Programs:

Learning Design & Technology

• Needed structure and guidance in developing Program Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)
• Program Curriculum Map was nonexistent
• After consultations with the Assessment Team and other members of the ECTL Staff, they have started to build more structure around their SLOs
• Have started working in the Assessment Matrix

Honors College

• Established SLOs
• Piloting Assessment Inquiry content – considering various measures to understand and speak to learning across the program
• Also considering how to utilize the Assessment Matrix Platform to integrate co-curricular experiences and learning within their college
Pilot Programs (cont.):

American Sign Language Certificate

- Utilizing the Assessment Matrix to map their SLOs within their current curriculum
- Tracking student growth, leaning and knowledge of SLOs with pre & post surveys each semester
  - Working on fine-tuning this process
  - Working on data analysis and interpretation (for informed action and then further informed inquiry)

Gender & Women’s Studies

- Currently mapping SLOs in the Assessment Matrix
  - This has helped to streamline the SLOs
  - Outline objectives in the SLOs
  - Opportunity to grapple with content both within and outside a program
Pilot Programs (cont.):

University Studies Program (USP2015)

*General Education Program*

- Mapping has helped to take a step back and examine the SLOs more carefully
  - SLOs are *currently* not mapped to Blooms Taxonomy
  - Inconsistencies in how programs mapped SLOs (no oversight)
UW Assessment Matrix Pilot Program:

- Assessment Matrix
  - Platform has helped to drive Faculty and Instructor Development
    - Multiple sessions devoted to curriculum mapping
    - Thorough and collaborative inquiry into program SLOs
  - Using the Pilot program
    - Thoughtful inquiry and analysis of SLOs
    - Drive curriculum mapping (paired with institutional assessment efforts)
    - Inquiry into student learning both at the course-level and the program-level
    - Multiple collaborators and opportunity for further support (questions about syllabi, assessment measures, direct and indirect assessments, data/information/evidence collection, analysis, informed opportunities to influence pedagogy and curriculum)
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