



Holy Family UNIVERSITY

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Issue 1

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Assessment Now

Title III Grant Update

On October 1, 2010, HFU was awarded a U.S. Department of Education Title III part A, Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP) grant to create the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment. The funds will be administered for this grant over the next five years to help centralize the IR and assessment efforts at the university.

Thus far, the grant funds have been used to create the physical space to house the OIRA, to hire the assistant director and research assistant positions, and to purchase the Blackboard Outcomes Assessment package. Funds will also be used to hire a research analyst in the coming weeks and to provide support for academic coordinators and faculty development.

Under the grant objectives, the Blackboard Outcomes Assessment Steering Committee (BbOASC) was set up to manage the transition to the use of Blackboard Outcomes. Four subcommittees have been developed to (1) create a governing body to oversee assessment, (2) plan faculty development programs for assessment training, (3) identify the outcomes expected from co/extra-curricular activities, and (4) determine how best to administer survey measures.

The conclusions and recommendations from these subcommittees will be used over the course of the rest of the summer and the fall semester. While these subcommittees are temporary, they will significantly influence the trajectory of assessment efforts at the university.

Blackboard Outcomes Pilot Projects

The Blackboard Outcomes Assessment (BbOA) package is being implemented to help coordinate assessment efforts across the university. Before this system is fully implemented, three pilot projects will be completed.

Pilot Project 1: Assessment Plans

The first pilot project will establish templates and protocols for the creation of program assessment plans. The following programs are participating in the assessment plans pilot: Management and Marketing, Gen Ed, and DEL. The Careers Center is also participating in this pilot to create an assessment plan for an administrative unit.

Pilot Project 2: Survey Administration

The School of Nursing is participating in the second pilot, which is aimed at using the Blackboard platform to administer surveys. The Alumni Survey for both the BSN and MSN programs will be administered through Blackboard in August.

Pilot Project 3: Curriculum Maps

Curriculum maps provide a way to ensure that program goals and objectives are covered by the courses offered. The following departments are creating curriculum maps within the Blackboard platform: Elementary Education, Nursing, Psychology, and Sociology.

Pilot Project 4: Rubric Creation

The final pilot project involves identifying artifacts for collection and creating rubrics to evaluate those artifacts. The ethics core of the School of Business is the focus of this project.

Faculty Development Day Presentation

Institutional assessment was the focus of Faculty Development Day in the spring. Karen Yoshino, a Blackboard assessment systems consultant, was brought in to lead the discussion.

There were also two breakout sessions involved with the faculty development day. The first focused on creating rubrics for institutional outcomes, and the second focused on creating discipline specific rubrics.

The presentation and breakout groups received mostly positive feedback from participants and the breakout sessions produced good results toward drafting rubrics. The OIRA would love your input on what faculty development opportunities you would like to see in the future.

College Senior Survey and HERI Faculty Survey Results Coming Soon

The College Senior Survey (CSS) administered by the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) was deployed in 2009-2010. CIRP has recently provided the data and some analysis from this survey and will be reported on in mid-August.

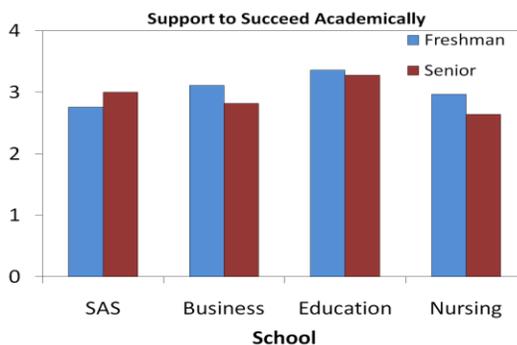
The survey gives a comprehensive picture of students' self-reported college experiences and the knowledge they have gained in college. A small subset is also matched longitudinally to The Freshman Survey (TFS) provided to the same class. The results will give a

picture of how HFU compares to similar institutions and can provide indications for improvement areas.

The Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) Faculty survey was also administered in 2009-2010. Results from this survey will give insight into a variety of aspects of faculty life including how faculty work load is spread, perceptions of the academic culture of the university, and a variety of other topics. A link to the 2007-2008 results can be found in the quick links.

NSSE Results

The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) was administered in 2004, 2007, and 2009. This survey measures student self-reports of academic engagement. Below is a graph with some sample data comparing the four academic schools on providing support to succeed academically.



See the full report in "Quick Links" above.

HFU Represented at Blackboard World in Las Vegas

The Blackboard World annual conference was held in Las Vegas July 12th-15th. Shelley Robbins, Associate Professor of Psychology and Activity Director in OIRA, was able to present (with Karen Yoshino) during one of the sessions. The presentation highlighted

how Blackboard Outcomes is being implemented at Holy Family.

The conference was an opportunity for several Holy Family Blackboard administrators to learn more about what Blackboard has to offer and to discover other tools and trends in assessment of higher education.

New Resources

A Magna Online Seminar entitled "Connect Learning Across Courses with Curriculum Maps" is now available to help faculty and administrators understand the purposes of curriculum mapping. Contact OIRA for access to this webinar

Contact Us

Please email, call, or stop into the office in 106 Holy Family Hall with any questions or concerns about assessment.

As we move forward, we will be seeking units that are ready to transition to Blackboard Outcomes. If you have assessment projects ready to move forward contact the OIRA for assistance. Also let us know if you have assessment news that can be included in future newsletters.

Upcoming Events

Assessment Brown Bag Series
12:30pm – 1:25pm

Sept. 14 in ETC 111: *Planning for Course Assessment*

Oct. 5 in CC 115: *Using Midterms Effectively*

Nov. 2 in CC 115: *Leveraging the Power of Rubrics*

Dec. 7 in CC 115: *Assessing Students' Self-Reflection of the Learning Process*