

LEARNING CURVE UPDATE

Assessment Task Force

September 2004

Fall Training

Thank you for the positive feedback we have received regarding the in-service program. Rumor has it that many of the task force members have been nominated for Oscars. New posters have been placed on walls in every building --- Take time to notice the pictures of taskforce members working on Assessment Annie. Even though we have a daunting task ahead of us, -- we can find the *element of fun in the job that must be done*. Cooperation and positive thinking will help get the job done effectively. We also have the help of our consultants who will work with us through the Focus Visit. They will be on campus twice more this year to answer questions and keep us focused.

Together we assess and achieve measurable outcomes—a win for us all!

Recruits

In addition to program assessment, another integral institutional assessment is in general education. General education assessment measures the fundamental academic competencies and skills (FACS) of students who have completed 45+ credit hours. General education assessment looks at basic skill levels and provides a snapshot of what NECC students gain through their educational experience at the college. This *snapshot* can then be used to improve the *big picture*. This on-going process provides for continuous improvement. Thanks to the following faculty who have agreed to assess student learning in each of the following areas.

Writing

Pam Saalfeld
Jean Dederman
Keith Mathews
Cindy Baum

Speaking

Corinne Morris
Melissa Elznic
Sue Voss
Louise Torkelson

Math

Don Moser
Beth Welke
Dave Heidt
Kelly Wemhoff

Social Skills

Michael Lechner
Joan Zanders
Mary O'Boyle
Robert Chamberlain

These faculty members will be meeting regularly to determine measurement strategies. The 2004/2005 plan is to measure writing, speaking and math. We hope to pilot a method for measuring social skills and will add problem solving as soon as possible. The problem solving team will be formulated at a later date.

Visiting Coaches

Dr. Jane Hunter and Carroll Bennett, assessment consultants, were at Northeast from August 16-18 working with the assessment task force, deans, Dr. Giddings, and faculty. They provided suggestions to program faculty regarding their matrices. They also provided an update to Dr. Path, and to the board of governors. Their exit report was complementary to the college for its dedication to the assessment initiative. Here is an excerpt from their report summary:

“We are pleased that we will be visiting NECC again in March 2005 to assist with planning for the focused visit. This is a crucial activity and importance of its completion cannot be over-emphasized. NECC has come a long way in the last six months and must continue that momentum in order that the vital assessment activities be completed in a timely fashion.”

The consultants can be contacted for further assistance by faculty. If you would like more help with your assessment plans, please contact an assessment taskforce member: Lin Behmer, Corinne Morris, Don Bailey, Don Benjamin, Roger Gipson, Michael Lechner, Howard Meier, Don Moser, Ann Oertwich, Pam Saalfeld are available for assistance.

Game Dates to Remember

September 3 General Education Survey of assignments due to Lin or Corinne.
 September 14 FACS general education teams meet to continue progress.
 September 15 Assessment co-chairs meet with statewide community college assessment representatives in Grand Island
 Year-end institutional report compiled.
 October 1 Program Assessment 2003/2004 Reports due
 2004/2005 Matrices (first three columns) due in respective Dean's offices.

Assessment Results

Results have been compiled for the general education survey and the CAAP Test. A brief summary of the results follows. If you would like to see the complete results, contact Dr. Brandt.

CAAP's Stats

NECC administered the CAAP exam to 47 and 65 students during spring 2002 and 2004 respectively. The results indicate that our students scored at or just above the national norm on the writing skills, mathematics, and reading exams. The students performed substantially above the national norm on science reasoning.

General Education Survey

NECC administered the Graduating Student General Education Survey the last three years during graduation rehearsal. The results indicate that 98 percent of the students rated their experience at NECC from average to excellent. Over 81 percent indicated that if they were to start over, they definitely or probably would still attend NECC. Over 87 percent indicated that they would definitely or probably recommend NECC to a friend or relative. There is a strong correlation between the level of perceived skill or ability reported by the students and the perceived impact NECC had their attainment of that skill.



 "You want me to do what?"	 "I don't get it"	 "I don't want to get it"	 "I'm retiring, I don't need to get it"	 "The reports due when???"
 "Are we missing something?"	 "I just met with the co-chairs"	 "Sure, I'm up for it"	 "I've read reports from at least 10 other colleges"	 "I get it—piece of cake!"