

Eye on Assessment

It's Time for Freshmen and Seniors to Voice Their Opinion

NSSE is at Mason in Spring 2015

This spring, Mason is participating in the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). Mason has participated in the survey every three years since 2000. The NSSE surveys freshmen and graduating seniors regarding their undergraduate educational experiences - both inside and outside the classroom. Results from previous NSSE administrations have helped to foster improvements in areas such as academic advising and undergraduate research.

Participation

Student participation is essential to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of student engagement levels, and to examine how and where improvements can be made to Mason's undergraduate experience. Students are receiving an increasing number of surveys and response rates are dropping as a result. For the 2012 NSSE, Mason's institutional response rate was 28%. We believe that we can do better this year, but it will require campus support.

We are asking colleges, departments, faculty, and staff to encourage their freshmen and seniors to participate in the survey. Students will receive the survey invitation in their Mason email beginning Monday, February 16. The survey will remain open through March. Flyers are being distributed to academic and University Life offices.

NSSE Reports

Reports from previous years can be found on the OIA website - assessment.gmu.edu. In addition to published reports, there are also searchable results for 2009 and 2012 that can be customized by college and major. These results have been especially helpful for programs going through external accreditation and internal academic program review.



OIA NEWS

Staffing Changes

Dr. Karen Gentemann retired in January after a 26-year career at Mason.

Dr. Stephanie Hazel is now Acting Director of Institutional Assessment.

Reports

Reports on the 2014 Career Plans Survey and the 2014 Graduating Senior Survey will be available in the coming weeks on the OIA website - assessment.gmu.edu.

Assessment Council

A new Assessment Council was formed in December. It has representation from each college and its role is to discuss and review assessment policies and practices at Mason.



Annual Assessment Reporting

After consultations with faculty, deans, and administrative offices, the assessment reporting cycle has been simplified. Academic degree programs will now conduct one learning outcome assessment annually. This year, 2014-15, will be a planning year. Each degree program will identify 5-7 student learning outcomes and create a plan for assessing one of the outcomes in 2015-16.

Administrative units will follow a similar reporting structure. The current year is a planning year. Offices will identify all unit goals related to Mason's Strategic Plan, choose one goal to assess in 2015-16, and identify the planned action for that goal.

University Life's reporting plan will be finalized later this semester.

Tk20

We're very excited to announce that Mason has entered into a multi-year contract with Tk20 for its assessment reporting tool. Tk20 has replaced MATS. Many different software tools were vetted and Tk20 was best poised to meet Mason's assessment reporting needs.

The biggest change will be seen by administrative units, which will now map their unit goals to Mason's Strategic Plan, and track their progress through the ten-year planning cycle, 2014-2024. This feature has been very well received by the units that have started using it.

We are offering workshops this spring to help units navigate the changes. We are also available to work with users on an individual basis. Workshop registration, detailed annual assessment reporting requirements, and Tk20 guides can all be found on the OIA website.

The due date for entering assessment data into Tk20 is June 15, 2015.

Questions? Please contact us at assessment@gmu.edu or 703.993.8834.

OIA STAFF

Stephanie Hazel
Acting Director
shazel@gmu.edu
703.993.5106

Sarah Pérez-Kriz
Associate Director
skriz@gmu.edu
703.993.8616

Zhicheng Zhang
Associate Director
zzhang11@gmu.edu
703.993.5104

Nicole Long
Assessment Analyst
nlong3@gmu.edu
703.993.4267

Rawa Jassem
Applications Analyst and
Web Developer
rjassem1@gmu.edu
703.993.8876

Karen Manley
Administrative and
Communications Coordinator
kmanley@gmu.edu
703.993.8834

<https://assessment.gmu.edu>

3100 Alan and Sally Merten Hall
Fairfax, VA 22030