

Assessment Basics and Overview of Requirements

What is Assessment?

Assessment is an iterative process used to improve student learning in academic programs. As part of assessment activities faculty develop student learning goals for academic programs. Specific information on student learning is gathered, and a determination is made about the extent to which goals are being met. Changes are made in response to information collected, and fed back into assessment work on a regular basis, as shown in the diagram below. The overall goal of assessment work is the continuous evaluation of and improvement of student learning.

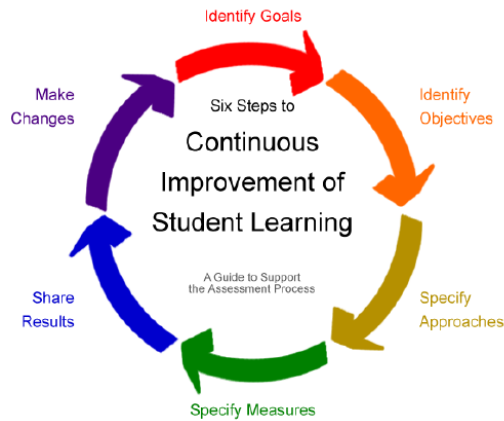


Image from: <http://www.kent.edu/aqip/LearningAssessment/images/fullcircle.gif>

Why Do Assessment?

Assessment improves teaching and learning, and helps us ensure that all of our work in the classroom is actually resulting in student learning. Regular and continuous assessment of academic programs is also required for accreditation by Middle States.

Assessment Requirements at Wells College

Each major at the college must engage in regular assessment activities. The major chair is responsible for overseeing assessment. Each major needs to produce two documents related to their assessment work: 1) a current assessment plan; 2) an annual assessment report. Links from the assessment page on the GLOBE detail the contents of these two documents.

Annual Reporting Deadline

Each major needs to submit an annual assessment report by May 31st of each year. This is also the deadline by which an updated assessment plan must be submitted. Documents should be emailed to epc@wells.edu. Documents are posted on the assessment page on the GLOBE.