



Hope

COLLEGE

ASSESSMENT UPDATE

January 2024

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COMMUNICATION WITH ASSESSMENT LEADERS

Thank you for responding to the Fall survey regarding assessment communication. A newsletter for chairs and assessment leaders was the overwhelming choice (84%) with a twice-per-semester preference (53%). This is the first newsletter for Spring 2024, with the next update scheduled for mid-March.

You also requested a timeline of assessment due dates and posting the newsletters on our assessment website. Done and done: both are coming soon to the Assessment Resources tab at hope.edu/assessment.

Please share this newsletter with others in your department who lead the assessment of student learning. Thank you for everything you do to ensure curricular and cocurricular excellence for Hope students.

ANCHOR PLAN ARTIFACT COLLECTION BEGINS SPRING SEMESTER 2024

As you begin the semester, please take some time to chat with your faculty and office manager about collecting artifacts for Anchor Plan assessment purposes. Your office manager likely attended a training on this at the end of the Fall Semester.

Departments that offer courses with the following attributes mapped to Anchor Plan Outcome 1 (SS, MNS, MA, NSL, HST 100-level, HCP 100-level,

PHL 100-level, RL2) or Outcome 4 (NSL, ART, HST 200-level, HCP 200-level, PHL 200-level) are required to collect artifacts each semester beginning in Spring 2024.

We know some departments opted to start the process last semester and some will begin this semester. Either is fine. Regardless, it would be good to think about this now and check in with your department colleagues regarding actions needed this semester. If you have any questions, please contact Chad Carlson, Director of General Education (carlsonc@hope.edu).

Links to Assessment Resources

[Anchor Plan Assessment Information and Resource Guides](#)

[Curricular Program Assessment Plans](#)

[Cocurricular Program Assessment Plans](#)

[Assessment Portal/Reporting Information and Resources](#)

[HLC Review Team Report](#) (see pages 34-35 for evaluation of Hope's assessment activities)

To learn more about assessment of student learning, [explore the Hope College Assessment website](#)

2022-23 ASSESSMENT REPORTS

In preparation for our September HLC visit, many of you submitted your 2022-23 assessment reports early. This helped us demonstrate multiple assessment cycles and resulted in positive HLC review team comments regarding our assessment work. Thank you!!!!

If you have not submitted your reports for the learning outcomes you assessed in 2022-23, please submit them by January 31st (they were due October 1st). Report on only those learning outcomes that were assessed during the 2022-23 academic year. If you are not sure of which of your outcomes you need to report, you can find your curricular or cocurricular assessment plan and reporting schedule at hope.edu/assessment. If you are unsure what you have already reported, [find your completed reports here](#).

ASSESSMENT REPORTING IMPROVEMENTS

Public Affairs & Marketing is working with us to improve our assessment reporting system. When completed later this year, it will be similar to what Hope uses to report and access governance committee minutes and agendas.

We currently use a Qualtrics-based system that is functional, but not ideal. The new process will improve access to assessment reporting and remove some of the cumbersome aspects of the current process, including eliminating the need for usernames and passwords to enter reports.

For now, please continue submitting assessment reports through the current portal system links found at hope.edu/assessment. We will let you know when the new system is operational.

INTELLECTUAL ENGAGEMENT WITH THE CHRISTIAN FAITH SURVEY CLOSES ON JANUARY 12TH

Please encourage your juniors and seniors to complete the Intellectual Engagement with the Christian Faith Survey. They received a link to the survey at the end of the Fall Semester and reminder emails with survey links will go out to them again across the first week of Spring Semester classes.

Every three years we ask Hope juniors and seniors to tell us how they have engaged with the Christian Faith in their general education, major courses, and other college activities. This is the third administration of this triennial assessment.

Aggregate results are used for the assessment of Common Learning Outcome 2. Results are also used as key performance indicators for Goals 1 and 2 of the college strategic plan.

INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCY & DIVERSITY ASSESSMENT

Completing the ETS-developed Intercultural Competency and Diversity Assessment is now required for FYS students as part of the expanded Anchor Plan curriculum. Students complete the assessment again during the semester when they complete the Senior Seminar, which allows us to measure their growth in intercultural competency while they are Hope students.

Results from this important assessment are used by several curricular and cocurricular programs, required for at least one of our external program accreditors, and are used to assess Anchor Plan Outcomes 2 and 3, and [Common Learning Outcome 5](#).

Unfortunately, our assessment completion rates are low, particularly among seniors.

If you have faculty members who are teaching Senior Seminar sections this semester, please remind them to encourage and convey to their students the importance of the Intercultural Competency & Diversity Assessment for Hope College.

CRITICAL THINKING ASSESSMENT

We administer the ETS-developed Critical Thinking Assessment to all seniors. This direct assessment of students' analysis and synthesis skills is used at Hope to assess individual program outcomes, Anchor Plan Outcome 5, and [Common Learning Outcome 1](#).

Results identify if our graduating students can think critically, analyze evidence or data to solve problems, reach informed conclusions, and make sound judgments – the promises we make regarding a Hope education.

While this is required, each academic department or program decides at what point their majors are assessed. In some programs, there is a senior-level course where it can be included. In other departments and programs, students complete the assessment in the semester of their graduation. It can be administered in fall, spring, or summer sessions – whatever works best for you.

While we leave the decision regarding the timing of the assessment up to individual department faculties, the work of administering the assessment (including the cost) is handled entirely by the Assessment Office in Frost Center.

All we need from your department are three things:

- 1) a list of the student names/email addresses to whom the assessment should be sent,
- 2) the date when the email with the assessment link should be sent out to your students, and
- 3) encouragement of your students by you and your faculty to reach a high completion rate.

If your department or program has not yet had your seniors' critical thinking assessed this year as part of this college-wide process, provide us with the above items 1 and 2 no later than February 1st. Send this information to kremerk@hope.edu and cc: frostcenter@hope.edu.

FALL 2023 CHANGES TO PROGRAM CURRICULUM MAPPING

With our Fall 2023 changes to general education and the move from a 4 to 3-credit norm, many academic programs made curricular changes that included new and discontinued courses.

During the Spring Semester, please look at your program outcome mapping (see page 1 of your Assessment Plan on the [Program Learning Outcomes page](#)) to make sure it is current. Send any revisions to your mapping to kremerk@hope.edu by April 5th.

LEARNING OUTCOMES CARDS

The Assessment Office prints two-sided cards that illustrate how your program outcomes, the Anchor Plan Outcomes, and the Common Learning Outcomes work together in a Hope education.

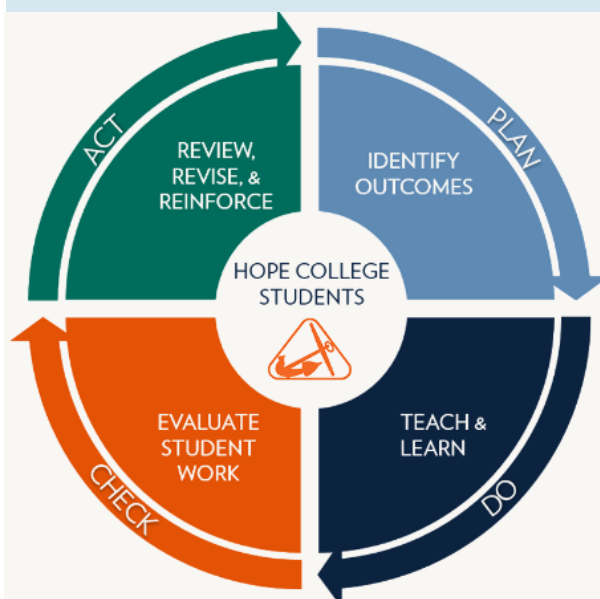
The cards list your program or department mission and your (curricular or cocurricular) program student learning outcomes. Several departments are using the cards during the student advising process.

[Order your student learning outcome cards here!](#) and they will come to you through campus mail. There is no cost to your department for the cards.

2023-24 Assessment Committee Members

Reach out to your divisional representatives or any of the individuals listed below if you have questions about Hope's assessment processes and policies or the work of the committee.

Kathy Kremer (Chair) Assessment & Accreditation
Daniel Woolsey (Secretary) Humanities
Courtney Brewster, Alumni & Family Engagement
John Jobson, Student Development
Don Friesner, Institutional Research
Joshua Abbas, Student Congress
Eric Alsgaard, Student Congress
Chad Carlson, Director of General Education
Kara Brems, Arts
Ben Krause, Arts
David DeJong, Humanities
John Krupczak, Natural & Applied Sciences
Carrie Dummer, Natural & Applied Sciences
Paula Ferrara, Social Sciences
Allie Whitford, Social Sciences
Carrie Bredow, Academic Affairs Board Liaison
Tom Sura, Guest, Director of College Writing



KEEP CALM AND CONTINUE ASSESSING

We can all be proud of our hard work during the last five years to develop a solid foundation of program, general education, and common learning outcomes assessment.

These accomplishments were specifically noted in our recent HLC Review Team Report.

"Since HC's 2013 comprehensive evaluation and 2018 mid-cycle review, the institution has made significant progress in the area of assessment. Evidence suggests that assessment plans for departments, programs (including general education and co-curricular offerings), and broader College learning outcomes follow best practices, are being adhered to, and inform improvements to educational offerings (p. 35)."

Let's celebrate and continue this work.

Now that things are in place, it will be much easier to keep things going than to let things lapse and do this all over again 4 or 8 years from now. Looking back, it is clear that Hope has made several good starts at an assessment program across the last 15-20 years, but with personnel changes or following an HLC evaluation, the work slows or stops.

As most of you know, I am retiring at the end of January. While I will continue working for Hope for a few hours each month to maintain our assessment and accreditation efforts until the search for my replacement is complete, I am counting on each of you to maintain the work of assessment for the benefit of Hope's students.

All the best,

Kathy S. Kremer, PhD

Senior Director of Assessment and Accreditation
Hope College Accreditation Liaison Officer
Frost Center for Data and Research

Hope College

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