

# ALL THINGS ASSESSMENT AT KU

*The Official Assessment Newsletter of Kutztown University*



## Program Assessment Success

*Featuring Physics, the College of Education & Art History*

The Physics program has approached assessment with an ambitious attitude. The program developed strong SLOs that can be assessed across course levels. Using this method, progress can be compared across first-year to senior-level students. By assessing the data, the physics program has been able to identify gaps in the curriculum and formulate changes that improve student learning and success. For example, even though all physics students in the class reached a successful level demonstrating core knowledge of concepts, an item analysis showed that more students struggled when multiple topics were blended into one problem, especially under conservation of energy and static equilibrium. Extra examples will be used in classroom discussions to see the impact on student performance. In another course, a focus on specific communication skills will be added to the initial laboratory assignments of the semester. Further assessment and analysis will prove whether the action items have been successful in improving student performance in communication. These efforts by the Physics department are to be commended. Good job!

All Things Assessment at KU is edited by Dr. Karen Rauch, Associate Provost for Accreditation and Assessment and Prof. Krista Prock, Interim Director of the Office of Assessment. GA Crystal Horninger is the student editor. Suggestions for articles, announcements, and feedback are welcome and appreciated.

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# Program Assessment Success

Education programs at Kutztown University discussed their assessment data with the Council for Counselor and Teacher Education (a group that includes administrators from other colleges, as well as external school partners) and College of Education faculty and administration, and concluded that the College of Education must improve preparation for educators of English Language learners (ELL). A college retreat was held in January 2019 to gain wider stakeholder involvement in analysis and response to data. The College Assessment committee presented data and recommendations for improvement in the following areas: preparation for English Language Learners, preparation for diverse students (defined broadly), classroom management, and communication with families. As a result, the College of Education hired a tenure-track faculty member, and is working to update major requirements to include EDU 150, an ELL focused course, and improve opportunities for ELL professional development for faculty. The action steps brought about by the assessment process will improve the curriculum for all education majors and prepare them for the diversity they will face in the workforce.

The BA Art History program assessed four Student Learning Outcomes in the 2018-2019 academic year. Students met the criteria of success in most categories, but many improvements are planned after analysis of assessment data. Regarding SLOs 1 and 2, the program will use a different instrument to measure student progress in the future, and will investigate assessing students at introductory and advanced levels, to track progress over time. Some curricular changes were already in place that may affect student performance on SLO 2, including emphasis on communication skills and Art History terminology. Curricular changes may also help students with SLO 3. These changes include introducing methodologies earlier in the curriculum and to provide a foundation for students when they are doing their more advanced coursework. To address SLO 4, the program will introduce assignments that help students with their presentation skills and also with thesis construction and historical methods. In all SLOs, the Art History program is working to expand assessment efforts to compare results across different levels of courses in order to track student achievement.

## Middle States News

In June 2019, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education reaffirmed Kutztown University's accreditation as the university is in compliance with Standard V (Educational Effectiveness Assessment) based on their review of university's assessment process improvement. The commission has requested a monitoring report, due March 1, 2020, demonstrating sustainability of implemented corrective measures, including but not limited to (1) the development and implementation of organized and systematic assessments that evaluate the extent of student achievement in all programs, including general education, and communicate the results of this assessment to stakeholders (Standard V); (2) consideration and use of assessment results for the improvement of educational effectiveness and for reviewing and revising academic programs and support services (Standard V); and (3) periodic assessment of the effectiveness of assessment processes utilized by the institution for the improvement of educational effectiveness (Standard V). The commission will direct a follow-up team visit following submission of the monitoring report.

# CET Summer Seminar

The inaugural 2019 CET Summer Seminar on Best Practices in Teaching, Learning, and Assessment was held May 15-17 and August 5-6 (with the final session slated for January 2020). Ten faculty participants were selected from the applicant pool and received a stipend of \$2,000 for their work in improving a particular course. Applicants were asked to identify course outcomes they would like to improve based on previous assessment evidence, and to show why improving that course feature would be important for students.

Among other topics, the sessions provided information on applying backwards course design, aligning assessment outcomes, teaching reflection, creating multiple learning pathways, and designing assessments. There was time for meaningful interdisciplinary collaboration and peer document review, and I was very impressed by the thoughtful course revisions all the participants developed over the summer. The participants are now teaching their Fall 2019 semester with the course changes in place and will also collect new assessment data; in January 2020, we will meet to go over their initial findings and help make any needed pedagogical adjustments for Spring 2020 courses.

The inaugural cohort consisted of ten faculty members: Dr. Michele Baranczyk (Psychology); Dr. Kristina Fennelly (English); Dr. Richard Heineman (Biology); Dr. Saehwa Hong (Business Administration); Dr. Yun (Amy) Lu (Math); Dr. Christine Coleman Núñez (Modern Language Studies); Dr. Julie Palkendo (Physical Sciences); Professor Thiep Pham (Computer Science and Information Technology); Professor Gwendolyn Yoppolo (Art); Dr. Ju Zhou (Math). In addition, guests from around the university attended the sessions to use their expertise to help participants: Doug Scott and Jared Green (Office of Distance Education and Instructional Design); Dr. Amy Lynch Biniek (English and Composition Coordinator); Karen Wanamaker and Sue Czerny (Rohrbach Library); and Krista Prock, Dr. Gil Clary, and Dr. Karen Rauch (Office of Assessment).

I want to thank all involved for their hard work, and I look forward to our January 2020 session to discuss how the course changes impacted students this semester. If you are interested in being a participant in an upcoming summer seminar, please contact me or attend one of the sessions that will be conducted by one of our Summer 2019 participants.

Dr. Moe Folk  
Faculty Director of the CET  
English Department

# Drexel Assessment Conference

The 6th Annual Drexel Assessment Conference was held in Philadelphia, PA from September 11-13, 2019. Andrea Kirshman (CASA), R. Chad Brown (Tutoring), Marlene Fares (Advising), Lori Lentz (Registrar), and Rachel Fager (Library) presented a session titled, "Outcomes outside the classroom: A collaborative approach to developing SLO assessment in student support services." The session included information on successful academic support assessment. Because student learning occurs both inside and outside the classroom, it is important to assess learning experiences in various settings. The session provided specific examples of Student Learning Outcomes designed for student support services.

# Autumn Assessment Day

Please join your KU colleagues for Autumn Assessment Day on Friday, September 20, 2019. This year's event features a plenary session and workshops by Dr. Frederick Burrack, Director of Assessment and Professor of Music Education, at Kansas State University.

## SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

MSU 218

8:15-9:00AM  
PLENARY SESSION FOR ENTIRE CAMPUS

9:15-10:45AM  
ACADEMIC UNIT WORKSHOP

1:30-3:30PM  
ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT WORKSHOP

**RSVP to Bethany French at [french@kutztown.edu](mailto:french@kutztown.edu)**



## For More Information

**Please visit the Office of Assessment Website**

<http://www.kutztown.edu/assessment>