

PLANNING FOR DISSEMINATION AND USE

“...The gods condemned Sisyphus to endlessly roll a rock up a hill, whence it would return each time to its starting place. They thought with some reason that there was no punishment more severe than eternally futile labor...”

- The myth of Sisyphus (Camus 1955)

Just like the myth of Sisyphus, there is no punishment more severe than investing time and effort for nothing. As foolish as it may seem, the last and most important step in assessment, “closing the loop,” is often ignored after faculty have spent much time and effort developing a plan and collecting data.

Although it is impossible to predict what uses will be made of the assessment results until activities are conducted and results are considered, it is still important to think about how information will be shared and acted upon. This will include planning how results will be shared with faculty members in the program and what types of changes could be made in light of the assessment results (i.e., changes in your curriculum, teaching materials, or instruction).

Here is an example of what a plan for dissemination and use might look like:

Anecdotal evidence (professor reports) suggests that there is a wide discrepancy in the skill level of students entering into Chemistry 470. Assessment data will be used to make decisions about our structure of existing courses. More specifically, the progression of our courses as students enter into Chemistry 470. We will use the collected assessment data to help answer some of these questions by comparing assessment results for students who have taken Chem230 versus those who have not while controlling for ability (SAT). In addition, we are interested in determining whether our current assessment instrument and rubric effectively assess application of scientific reasoning (i.e., instruments sensitivity). Results will be shared via a faculty retreat and on our program’s website. The entire staff and faculty will participate in reviewing the assessment data at a faculty retreat held each summer. Results will be presented by the assessment committee through a formal presentation. Additionally we will post the assessment results on-line annually for transparency.

Use the template below to develop your plans for dissemination and use of results to include in your assessment plan.

Template for Plan for Dissemination and Use

Assessment data will be used to make decisions about *[insert first item]* , *[insert second item if appropriate]* , and *[insert third item as appropriate]* .

Results will be shared via *[insert dissemination vehicle]* .

NOTE: This template is provided to help you develop your statement on how you plan to disseminate and use your assessment results. You are not required to use this wording but you should include its components.