

National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment

Making Learning Outcomes Usable & Transparent

Examples of Good Assessment Practice

To develop a better understanding of what “good work” looks like related to assessment, data-informed improvement, and transparency at the institutional level, we are compiling some short, instructive case studies or *Examples of Good Assessment Practice*. The institutions selected were identified using information from the national survey of student learning outcomes assessment, self-nominations by institutions, and suggestions from the NILOA advisory panel. The *Examples* feature colleges and universities that appear to be using assessment data to effect changes in teaching and learning or reporting their activities and findings in an accessible manner.

Completed Cases:

- Augustana College
- Capella University
- Colorado State University
- Juniata College

Coming Soon:

Carnegie Mellon University
LaGuardia Community College
North Carolina A&T State University
St. Olaf College
San Jose State University
Texas A&M International University

Lessons Learned from the Cases:

- Assessment is a scholarly activity worthy of faculty attention and institutional respect
- Support is necessary – *less* in assessment techniques and *more* in fostering the use of results to improve
- Embed assessment in existing activities, do not make assessment an “add on”
- Involve a range of faculty, students, staff and administrators in assessment thus spreading responsibility
- Report widely on action taken on results
- Accreditation may be used to facilitate good work
- Begin with a question or a problem to forefront assessment goals and desired changes in student learning

Additional Case Study Resources:

- Banta, T. W., Lund, J. P., Black, K. E., & Oblander, F. W. (1995). *Assessment in practice: Putting principles to work on college campuses*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.
- Banta, T. W., Jones, E. A., & Black, K. E. (2009). *Designing effective assessment: Principles and profiles of good practice*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.
- Banta, T.W. (Ed.) (2004). *Hallmarks of effective outcomes assessment*. San Francisco, CA: John Wiley.
- Bresciani, M. J., Gardner, M. M., & Hickmott, J. (Ed.). (In Press). *Case studies in assessing student success. New Directions for Student Services*. Boston, MA: Jossey-Bass.
- Bresciani, M. J. (Ed.). (2007). *Good practice case studies for assessing student learning in general education*. Bolton, MA: Anker Publishing.
- Bresciani, M. J. (2006). *Outcomes-based academic and co-curricular program review: A compilation of institutional good practices*. Sterling, VA: Stylus Publishing.

Case Study website: <http://learningoutcomesassessment.org/CaseStudies.html>