

Need Additional Training on Assessment?

In an effort to gear up for next year's round of assessment plans, the Office of Assessment and Research is offering additional training on assessment.

Some of the areas that you can get help with include:

- ◆ Developing a goal
- ◆ Developing an objective
- ◆ Developing measures for an objective
- ◆ Making an observation
- ◆ Closing the loop
- ◆ Developing a survey tool

If you would like additional training in any of these areas, please contact Wrenette Tedder at tedderw@hsu.edu.

The Office of Assessment and Research assists all academic and non-academic departments at Henderson State University in developing their assessment plans and maintaining the plans with data in TracDat. To learn more, visit their website at:

<http://www.hsu.edu/research-assessment/>.

If you can't find it here, contact Wrenette Tedder, Director of Assessment, at 230-5270 for any questions you may have.

Assessment Brief is brought to you by the Office of Assessment and Research:

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Ginger Otwell, Research Associate*

NSSE Survey is Winding Down!

As many of you may know, Henderson participated in the NSSE survey this year. 631 of our students were chosen to participate.

In an effort to improve on our return rate, faculty members may be asked to contact students in their classes who were chosen to participate but have not completed the survey and encourage them to complete the survey.

We appreciate any help you can give us to increase the number of students to complete the survey.



Assessment Brief

University Assessment Team Welcomes New Member

The University Assessment Team would like to welcome Jessica Childs to the Team. Jessica will represent the Student Government Association on the Team.

With the addition of a Student Government Association member, the Team hopes to develop ideas on how to get the word out to students about assessment and why HSU is focusing more on it now.

Inside this issue:

<i>HLC Criterion Two: Preparing for the Future</i>	1
<i>Time's Running Out for Completing Observations in TracDat</i>	1
<i>Confused by Assessment Definitions? (part 2)</i>	2
<i>2006-2007 Assessment Cycle</i>	2-3
<i>Need Additional Assessment Training</i>	4

New HLC Criterion Two: Preparing for the Future

Excerpts from criterion two include:

The organization's allocation of resources and its processes for evaluation and for planning demonstrate its capacity to fulfill its mission, improve the quality of its education, and respond to future challenges and opportunities.

- ◆ The organization realistically prepares for a future shaped by multiple societal and economic trends.
- ◆ The organization's resource based supports its educational program and its plans for maintaining and strengthening their quality in the future.
- ◆ The organization's ongoing evaluation and assessment processes provide reliable evidence of institutional effectiveness that clearly informs strategies for continuous improvement.
- ◆ All levels of planning align with the organizations' mission, thereby enhancing its capacity to fulfill that mission.

If you would like to view this and other criterion in full you may do so by going to: <http://www.ncahigherlearningcommission.org/download/PolicyBookJan05.pdf>

Information for article comes from HLC Policy Book.

Time's Running Out for Completing Observations into TracDat

The Office of Assessment and Research wanted to remind everyone that the time to complete observations and close the loop in TracDat is just around the corner. The dates are:

- ◆ Observations for Academic Assessment Plans must be completed by **June 1st**
- ◆ Observations for Non-Academic Assessment Plans must be completed by **June 30th**

If you need to request an extension to complete your observations, please go to <http://www.hsu.edu/research-assessment/> and click on the Observation Extension Request link to complete the request. The form must be approved by the appropriate administrator.

Once the extension request has the appropriate approval, the form must be returned to Wrenette Tedder, HSU Box 7580.

2006-2007 Assessment Cycle

Henderson's University Assessment Team met on April 12th, to discuss the upcoming assessment cycle for Henderson State University.

Due to the number of assessment plans that the Team has to review each year, it was decided that there would be two assessment cycles for future assessment plans. There will be one for academics and one for non-academics.

The Team helped set the dates so that there would be as little conflict as possible with other Henderson events.

With the upcoming visit from the Higher Learning Commission (North Central) and early 2007, the Team hopes that by having two different cycles there will be plenty of time to evaluate the plans but also time to work on other assessment issues, such as, getting the word out students about what assessment is and why Henderson is focusing more on assessment.

The assessment cycles for next year are on the following page.

Confused by Assessment Definitions? (part 2)

This newsletter will feature a series designed to help clarify the common assessment terminology.

Closing the Loop—The demonstration of the use of assessment results to improve the educational or service program.

Documentation—"If it isn't written down, it didn't happen."

Expectation—An estimate of the percent of students in a school who will meet the defined standard for a learning outcome.

Institutional goals—Institutional level action statements that implement, support, and are derived from the mission.

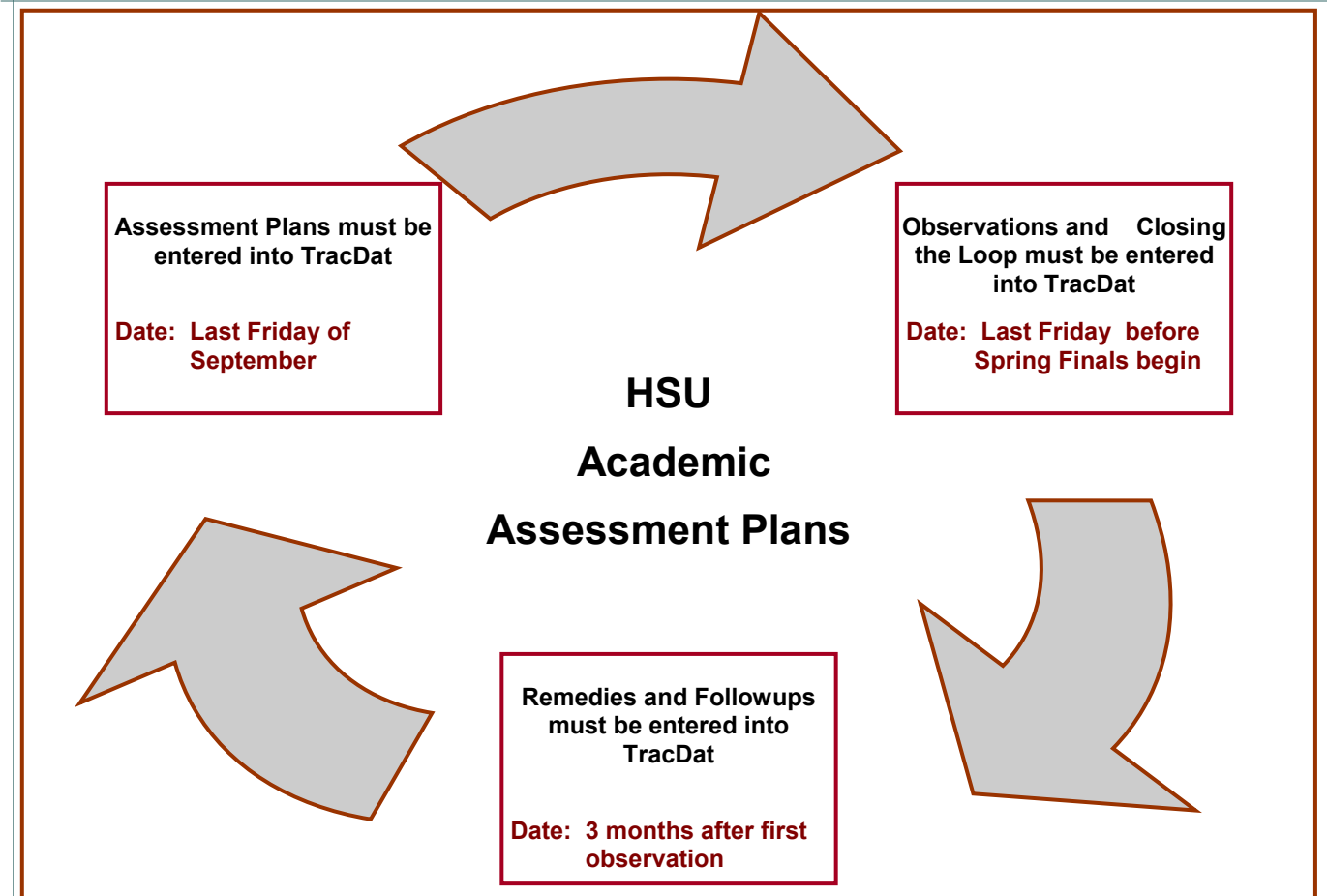
Institutional Mission—A broad statement of institutional philosophy, roles, scope, etc.

Portfolio—A collection of a students work which can be used to assess not only the outcome of learning, but the process of learning. Using portfolios as a school improvement assessment tool requires the ability to score both individual works and the whole portfolio against a standard for each.

Standards—Agreed upon values used to measure the quality of student performance, instructional methods, curriculum, etc.

Task—A goal-directed assessment activity or project which prescribes that the student use their background knowledge and skill in a somewhat long-term process to solve complex problems or answer a multi-faceted question.

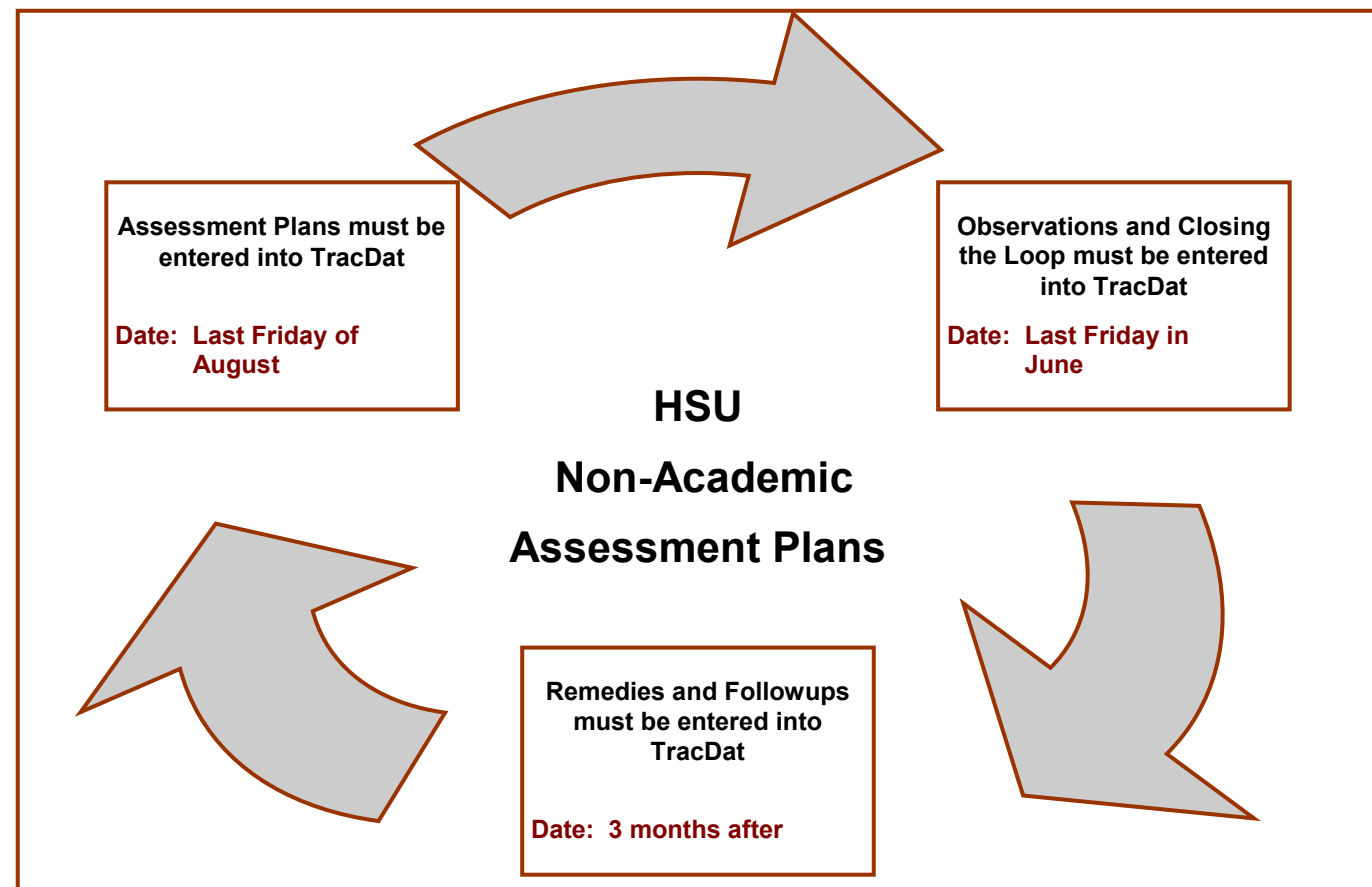
Validity—The extent to which an assessment method produces accurate, meaningful, and useful measures of the skills and knowledge it was designed to assess. The primary issue is content validity, which is whether an assessment and instructional program align (match).



Assessment Plans must be entered into TracDat
Date: Last Friday of September

Observations and Closing the Loop must be entered into TracDat
Date: Last Friday before Spring Finals begin

Remedies and Followups must be entered into TracDat
Date: 3 months after first observation



Assessment Plans must be entered into TracDat
Date: Last Friday of August

Observations and Closing the Loop must be entered into TracDat
Date: Last Friday in June

Remedies and Followups must be entered into TracDat
Date: 3 months after