## Four-Year Assessment Cycle Update

## Brett Serviss, Faculty Assessment Coordinator

As we near the end of the second year of the inaugural four-year assessment cycle, a "state of the union address" is in order. In September of 2016, the decision was made to change from an annual assessment cycle to a four-year assessment cycle for academic departments, based on the rationale that it is somewhat difficult for departments to conduct meaningful assessment practices when constrained to a yearly cycle interval. This decision to change assessment cycles was not decided casually, and was made as a collaborative effort between the Provost, Director of Assessment, Faculty Assessment Coordinator, and the Assessment Team. It is our belief that the shift to a four-year cycle will promote better assessment practices and provide robust, long-term data for better decision making by departments for program improvement.

At present, 42 out of 55 academic departments have approved assessment plans for the four-year cycle and these plans, along with some to all associated (related) documents, have been entered into TracDat. Most of the remaining departments have plans at the final revisions stage, which is the step prior to approval (see table below for general breakdown of the current state of academic departments as of February 2018). The goal for the Office of Assessment is 100% compliance from all academic programs, where each of the 55 programs has an approved assessment plan, to include all goals, outcomes, measures, and criteria, related documents, completed linkages, and curriculum mapping (related courses) by May 2018.

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42 (76%)	Approved — ready for the four-year cycle
	Final Revisions — require only minor adjustments for
9 (16%)	approved status
	Under Review — plan has been revised based on
	original feedback but is under the second round of
4 (7%)	review
	<b>Under Development</b> — plan is currently being
0 (0%)	developed by department
0 (0%)	No Plan
55	TOTAL ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

**Status Summary** 

Programs

As a follow up review pertaining to the last accreditation assurance review in 2015, an interim report pertaining to assessment at Henderson State University was submitted to the Higher Learning Commission on January 31, 2018. Even though the report has been completed, it is imperative that all of our academic programs maintain current and appropriate assessment plans and are actively engaged in conducting meaningful assessment endeavors, to include data collection and analysis, with proposed action plans for addressing the conclusions and outcomes of said analysis. We would, of course, be remiss if we did not acknowledge all of the hard-work and timely communication by faculty, department chairs, and college deans that have worked closely with us on establishing this new process and the associated assessment plans that have been developed as a consequence of it — for that, we sincerely thank all of you.

## **Assessment Team**

## Brett Serviss, Faculty Assessment Coordinator

The Assessment Team is a standing university committee that is tasked with assisting the Director of Assessment and the Faculty Assessment Coordinator with facilitating and promoting successful assessment practices for all academic and administrative (non-instructional) programs of the university. The Assessment Team also provides representation from all major academic and administrative areas of the university. One critical role assumed by Assessment Team members is operation as liaisons between the respective areas they represent and the Office of Assessment and Research, to provide accurate and timely, two-way communication pertaining to assessment between Faculty and Staff and the office of Assessment.

In addition to its role in facilitating and promoting assessment practices across the university, the Assessment Team operates as an advisory body regarding all aspects of university assessment, and regularly meets to deliberate and plan regarding such, including assessment-related accreditation requirements mandated by the Higher Learning Commission, which, of course, periodically reviews the assessment plans and protocols of the university and its individual programs, as a major component of the accreditation process.

The Office of Assessment hosts a website dedicated to the activities and processes of university assessment practices and the associated role, function, and activities of Assessment Team. Additionally, pertinent documents for the four-year assessment cycle, guidance for departmental assessment endeavors and TracDat usage, and meeting minutes of the Assessment Team since 2010 may all be accessed on MyHenderson under the Shared Governance tab, Assessment Team entry.

Role	Committee Member	Term Expires
Director of Assessment	Wrenette Tedder, Co-Chair	
Faculty Assessment Coordinator	Brett Serviss, Co-Chair, Secretary	
Faculty member-Library	David Sesser	2018
Faculty member-School of Business	Lonnie Jackson	2018
Faculty member-Ellis College, at large	Shari Valentine	2018
Faculty member-Ellis College, Fine Arts	Emily Gerhold, Webmaster	2018
Faculty member-Ellis College, Math, Science,	Shannon Clardy	2019
and Nursing		
Faculty member-Ellis College, Liberal Arts	Beth Ann Maxfield	2018

Current membership of the Assessment Team:

Faculty member-Teachers College	Judith Jenkins	2019
Administrative Staff-Academic Affairs	Chanda Hooten	2019
Administrative Staff-Athletics	Lenette Jones	2018
Administrative Staff-Finance and	Scott Freeman	2017
Administration		
Administrative Staff-Student and External	Sheryl Strother	2017
Affairs		
Administrative Staff-University Advancement	vacant	2019
Associate Dean-Ellis College	Angela Boswell	
Associate Dean-Teachers College	Gary Smithey	
Associate Dean-School of Business	Nathan Campbell	
Chair, General Education Committee	Angela Boswell	
Research Associate	Ginger Otwell	Ex officio
Provost and Vice President for Academic	Steve Adkison	Ex officio
Affairs		
Graduate Student	Christine Dickson	2017
Undergraduate Student	vacant	2017