



Point of Interest

We need your help!! All academic departments need to review their assessment plans and make sure all their goals and student learning outcomes are linked to the General Education Goals. See the article on page 3.

Need help with TracDat? Schedule a meeting with Wrenette Tedder at 230-5270 or tedderw@hsu.edu.

Want to know the Assessment Team member that represents your area? Look at page 4 for more information.

If you have suggestions for items and/or information to be included in future editions of the *Assessment Brief*, send them to tedderw@hsu.edu.

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Assessment Brief

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In Commemoration of Dr. Phillip Schroeder, Assessment Team Chair (2009-2013)

It is with the highest level of respect and gratitude that we, The Henderson State University Assessment Team, wish to acknowledge Dr. Phillip Schroeder, Professor of Music and former Assessment Team Chair, for his invaluable service in leading the Assessment Team for the previous three and one-half years (2009-2013). During his time as chair of the Assessment Team, Dr. Schroeder worked tirelessly to direct the efforts of the Assessment Team and further the culture of Assessment on the Henderson campus, across all departments and programs. Dr. Schroeder understood the importance and value of rigorous, quality assessment practices, and had a passion for communicating and cultivating this ideal to the various campus constituents. Dr. Schroeder was always well organized with purposeful and precise direction while leading the Assessment Team. Additionally, he was creative in his approaches, easy with which to work, and kind and respectful to others, while concurrently providing the firm, directional, and highly competent leadership necessary to promote and improve Assessment practices campus-wide. In reality, many programs, both academic and administrative, have achieved improved assessment practices based on the assistance and direction provided by the Assessment Team while under the direction of Dr. Schroeder; it was always his desire (and practice) to promote and develop assessment by building positive relationships with people and programs. His excellent leadership of the Assessment Team will be missed; however, through our accomplishments under his leadership, the Assessment Team is poised to continue to develop and enhance effective Assessment at Henderson State University. Thank you, Dr. Schroeder.

Brett E. Serviss
Professor of Biology and Curator (HEND)
University Assessment Team Co-chair

What is the Difference in TracDat and TK20

Why does Teachers College Henderson (TCH) have both TK20 and TracDat? What is the difference in the two systems?

Assessment at TCH is assured due to each program being monitored by specialized professional associations (SPAs). Each SPA requires a set of assessments based on specific nationally recognized standards. Each program's national accreditation is linked to a SPA report of their assessments and each SPA report requires data derived from the assessments.

Under the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), now the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), educator preparation programs within colleges or schools of education are reviewed for national recognition status based on their SPA recognition status. TCH received an NCATE review in the spring of 2011. The review revealed that the unit (TCH) did not disaggregate data for main campus and off campus sites, did not have a system to track whether all advanced candidates have opportunities in their field placements to develop the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to help all students learn, and that no data were available to indicate that candidates interact with different ethnic groups. Additionally, a mechanism for managing student performance data for SPA reports was lacking. Therefore, after much research, a TCH committee decided on the TK20 system to meet these data management needs.

TK20 is a software application that provides TCH educator preparation programs with an efficient and reliable mechanism for managing their assessment data. It provides an extensive list of aggregate and comprehensive reports to support compliance with accreditation standards. TK20 can import data from other systems to give comprehensive reports that include all the relevant information, not just assessment data. Programs can aggregate assessment data with student demographic data, transcripts, course information, test scores, and other pertinent data. The result is a seamless integration of all data in one location, giving a holistic view of each program's activities and performance

On July 1, 2013, the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) became the new specialized accreditor for educator preparation. On August 29, 2013, the CAEP Board of Directors approved new accreditation standards. CAEP requires that educator preparation providers (EPPs) seeking accreditation complete a self-study and host a site visit, during which site visitors determine whether or not the provider meets CAEP standards based on evidence of candidate performance, use of data in program self-improvement, and EPP capacity and commitment to quality. As for TracDat, it is an institution-wide assessment management tool that maps goals and outcomes to HSU strategic planning. It is a flexible software system that helps HSU align planning initiatives, review and reflect on academic and non-academic outcomes, and take action to improve performance. TracDat supports data-informed strategic planning as well as managing academic and administrative outcomes. It allows for institution-wide viewing of assessment plans and uniform reporting across departments. Each academic and administrative program is responsible for entering/maintaining their action plans and assessment results in TracDat.

The purposes for which TracDat and TK20 are used seem to be what makes a difference in the two systems. TCH needs the TK20 system to provide a common collection site for student performance data from all SPA assessments as well as other student data to meet accreditation requirements. TracDat allows for HSU institution-wide viewing of assessment plans and uniform reporting across departments to allow for data-informed strategic planning. Perhaps, both TracDat and TK20 software have some or all of the same capabilities. However, it appears that each is used for a different yet intertwined purpose.

Bernie Hellums, Ed.D.

General Education Assessment Progress Report, Fall 2013

During the spring of 2011, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) tasked the University with assessing the Liberal Arts Core (LAC). The General Education Committee was hence appointed with the task of gauging the effectiveness of the LAC in each major. After extensive research and interaction with the various departments within the University, the Committee developed four rubrics to be implemented in order to assess the impact of the LAC in the various programs.

Over the past two years the goal for each department was to implement the rubrics each semester, using the Written Communication, Oral Communication, Quantitative Reasoning, and Critical Thinking rubrics.

Another goal was to have a junior/senior level course chosen from each major that all students in that major are required to take. The course should already have an assignment or component that would allow assessment using each of the above-mentioned rubrics (four different courses may be used, one for each rubric or one course in which all the rubrics are used).

The following description was sent out to each participating Instructor -

This assessment is being conducted in selected upper-level courses in a variety of academic majors across campus. Its purpose is to measure how well the Liberal Arts Core has prepared students for success in their chosen fields of study. It is important to emphasize that students, instructors, and courses are not being evaluated. The data being collected will not be tied to any individual's permanent record, nor will ratings on the assessment criteria have any direct bearing on assignment or course grades. The selection of criteria for determining any grade on the assignment is the sole responsibility of the instructor.

Attached is an extensive data report of the results from the past four semesters. The Critical Thinking Rubric was implemented in the spring of 2013. This section of the report only includes data from the spring of 2013.

The aforementioned segment of the general education assessment is currently in the process of being completed this semester. Even though we have not had participation from all of the departments on campus, the participation has increased over the past few semesters. After the data have been gathered for the fall of 2013, the General Education Committee will continue to work on the HLC report which is due in the spring of 2014. One of the goals for the Committee will be to have feedback from the participating departments on the assessment process. This feedback will be included in the HLC report along with the associated data.

David Warren
Associate Professor of Printmaking and Art Education
General Education Committee Chair

From the Desk of Wrenette Tedder, Director of Assessment

Report on Assessment

We need your help! All academic departments need to review their assessment plans and make sure all their goals and student learning outcomes are linked to the General Education Goals.

- Students will develop their analytical and critical thinking skills.
- Students will strengthen their oral and written communication skills.
- Students will enhance their quantitative reasoning skills.

By linking your student learning outcomes to the General Education Goals, this will provide additional information for Henderson State University to include in the April 2014 progress report to the Higher Learning Commission.

The Office of Assessment supports the University's efforts in planning, assessing, and making changes to the programs and/or departments. The office is available to consult on any part of the assessment process. TracDat training will be scheduled early in the spring semester; however, if you need assistance prior to the training session contact Wrenette Tedder at 230-5270 or tedderw@hsu.edu.

Assessment Team for 2013-2014

Feel free to contact your representative on the Assessment Team. They are willing to assist you in the assessment process.

Member	Area Representing	Position
Campbell, Nathan	School of Business	Associate Professor of MGMT/Associate Dean
Coventry, Debra, Co-Chair	Ellis College of Arts and Sciences	Professor of Mathematics
Hellum, Bernie	Teachers College	Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership
Monroe, Ronnie	Teachers College	Associate Professor of Curriculum and Instruction
Serviss, Brett, Co-Chair	Ellis College of Arts and Sciences	Professor of Biology and Curator (HEND)
Shepherd, Joyce	Ellis College of Arts and Sciences	Associate Professor of Human Services
Warren, David	Ellis College of Arts and Sciences	Associate Professor of Art
Jones, Lenette	Office of the President	Asst. Sr. Womens Admin./Coordinator Athletic Academic Success
Ligon, Pam	Provost	Associate Dean of Academic Services
Otwell, Ginger	Institutional Research	Research Associate
Smith, Drew	External and Student Affairs	Director of International Student Center
Strother, Sheryl	External and Student Affairs	Assistant Director of Community Education
Tedder, Wrenette	Assessment	Director of Assessment
Wardlaw, Tammi	Finance and Administration	Campus Maintenance Supervisor
Howard, Claire	Undergraduate Student	Undergraduate Student Representative
Maestas, Maurie	Graduate School	Graduate Student Representative