



# Assessment Brief

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## ***Athletics Department Publishes Assessment Plan on the Web***

Kudos go out to David Thigpen, Assistant Athletic Director, for publishing the assessment plan for his department on the web.

The Athletics Department is the first department at Henderson to publish their plan for everyone to see. Take a moment to go to

<http://www.hsu.edu/content.aspx?id=7612> and look at their plan.

If you would like to publish your department's student learning outcome statements or objectives, or publish your assessment plan in its entirety, please contact Public Relations at 5402. They will be glad to assist you.

## **Inside this issue:**

<i>Higher Learning Commission Team to Visit Campus</i>	1
<i>Assessment Website Gets New Look</i>	1
<i>Confused by Assess- ment Definitions? (part 3)</i>	2
<i>New HLC Criterion Three: Student Learning and Effective Teaching</i>	2

## **Higher Learning Commission Team to Visit Campus**

Two visitors from the North Central Association's Higher Learning Commission will be here on February 26-27 for a focus visit. Dr. Kathie Gilbert, HLC Focused Visit Team Chair and Dr. Dennis C. Holt will be visiting with various departments and people concerning Henderson's assessment efforts.

The Higher Learning Commission visited the campus in November 2001 and conducted a comprehensive evaluation visit which resulted in our reaccreditation through 2011-2012. However, the Commission was concerned about the apparent lack of assessment on our campus. This resulted in the upcoming visit.

There will be a faculty/staff meeting with the HLC Team on Monday, February 26th, in the Garrison Center Banquet room at 3:15 p.m. to discuss Henderson's efforts to establish an effective assessment system. If you are able to attend the meeting, please join us.

If you would like to learn more about the Higher Learning Commission visit, please visit <http://www.hsu.edu/content.aspx?id=7769>.

## **Assessment Website Gets New Look**

The Office of Assessment recently changed the look of its website in an effort to let people know about what's going on in the assessment office. The assessment plan for the Office of Assessment and Research has been added, along with the Blooms Taxonomy (learning domains), annual assessment reports, and information on the University Assessment Team. Additions have also been made to the TracDat website to include more up-to-date information about TracDat.

If you would like to view the changes/updates please visit the Assessment website at <http://www.hsu.edu/content.aspx?id=1041>.

## Confused by Assessment Definitions? (part 3)

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

**Classroom Assessment Measures**—Any range of instructor measures to observe student learning in process to obtain feedback on what, how much, and how well students are learning.

**Content Standards**—Broadly stated expectations of what students should *know and be able to do* in particular courses. Content standards define for teachers, schools, and students

the expected student skills and knowledge and what schools should teach.

**Core Abilities**—statements meant to reflect the first level of General education competencies expected of Henderson State University students.



**Performance Demonstration**—a demonstration of a student outcome involving a process which is used to show mastery.

**Program Portfolio**—a tool by which students organize documented proof of their accomplishments both inside and outside of school. Portfolios demonstrate progress toward a student's career, educational, and personal goals. This portfolio should be a collection which is continually updated and modified to demonstrate personal and professional growth.

## CRITERION THREE: STUDENT LEARNING AND EFFECTIVE TEACHING

In June 2006, the Higher Learning Commission published its newest criteria. In following what was published in the previous Briefs, excerpts from criterion three are below.

The organization provides evidence of student learning and teaching effectiveness that demonstrates it is fulfilling its educational mission.

- ◆ The organization's goals for student learning outcomes are clearly stated for each educational program and make effective assessment possible.
- ◆ The organization values and supports effective teaching.
- ◆ The organization creates effective learning environments.
- ◆ The organization's learning resources support student learning and effective teaching.

If you would like to view this and other criterion in full, you may do so by going to:

<http://www.ncahlc.org/download/HLCPolicyBookJun06.pdf>.

*Information for article comes from HLC website.*