

Assessment Mentoring Program

Topics and Definitions

Analyzing Assessment Data

Analyzing assessment data is a process during which the results of direct and indirect measures are reviewed to determine whether educational outcomes have been achieved within a course or within a program.

Reporting Assessment Data

Reporting assessment data is the process of gathering the results of the assessment data analysis and presenting those results in a visual, tabular, or narrative form to enable all to clearly understand how well students in the course or program have achieved the intended educational outcomes.

Make Decisions Using Assessment Data

Using assessment data to make decisions is the process of reviewing the report of assessment data looking for ways that the educational experience can be improved. Why did some students achieve the educational outcomes and some did not? What could be changed in the educational experience to enable more students to achieve the outcomes? Are there certain outcomes that are consistently not achieved? What are the reasons for that?

Close the Loop Using Assessment Data

Using assessment data to close the loop is the process of taking the decisions that have been made from a review of the analysis of the assessment data and converting those decisions into an action plan that is intended to improve student learning within the educational experience. This plan begins the assessment process anew. There are numerous looping diagrams that illustrate this cycle, but in its simplest form, (1) educational outcomes are set, (2) educational experiences are developed, (3) educational experiences are conducted and educational outcomes are assessed, (4) assessment data is analyzed, (5) data is used to develop improved educational experiences, (6) educational outcomes are set, and so on, around and around.