# WMU Assessment Culture Report: Summer 2020

## Introduction

In the fall of 2018, the University Assessment Steering Committee (UASC) embarked on a project to establish an institution-wide benchmark for evidence of an assessment culture at Western Michigan University. In addition to establishing a benchmark of assessment culture, this serves as evidence of continuous improvement in preparation for the Higher Learning Commission accreditation visit in April, 2021. Academic unit reports were provided for the undergraduate, graduate and certificate levels. Out of 109 possible academic unit reports, 80 were completed (73%). For learner support units, 69 reports were possible and 56 completed (81%). Each submission focused on five areas critical to a culture of assessment: goals, learning outcomes, activities, measured progress, and data-informed changes. A team of UASC members read and used a four-point rubric to evaluate each submission. One was the lowest rating, four was the highest. Results for Learner Support Units (LSUs) across the institution, and by division are displayed below.

## Core Findings across Academic and Learner Support Units

- The target set by the UASC members, was a 3.00 on a four-point scale. Across units that submitted reports.
- For the first time at WMU, the UASC has developed a baseline for understanding our institutional culture of assessment. WMU assessment culture is the strongest related to setting goals, engaging students in robust and varied learning activities, and using multipole modalities for assessing student learning.
- Areas of growth in Institutional assessment culture include writing clear learning outcomes and using data from student learning to make improvements. This work may be happening in practice, but is not reflected in documentation which is critical for assessment culture.

| | WMU Results | WMU Academic Affairs | WMU LSUs |
|---|---|---|---|
| Goals | 3.08 | 2.92 | 3.29 |
| Learning Outcomes | 2.99 | 2.96 | 3.04 |
| Activities | 3.02 | 3.26 | 2.70 |
| Methods | 3.03 | 3.38 | 2.55 |
| Data-Informed Improvements | 2.82 | 2.95 | 2.64 |

## Recommended Next Steps and Action Items

- The UASC is identifying opportunities to provide professional development around those areas where the target was not reached.
- In the assessment report, programs were asked to make recommendations or suggestions for how the UASC could best support their assessment efforts, this information is also being reviewed in order to provide program and college specific assessment support.

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