

# CREATING COHERENCE FOR SUCCESS

A publication of the Office of Institutional Effectiveness



FALL 2021



**December 24, 2021**

As we close out the year, we are looking forward to the new year and all of the opportunities it will hold. In this fall semester edition of Creating Coherence for Success, we would like to share with you some amazing opportunities and projects that we are working on as we transition to 2022.

We have much to share but as always, we want you to know that we are here and ready to provide you with the help and tools you may need to continue to strive for improvement and student success. [Contact us](#) to let us know how we can help. *Please pass this message along to anyone you think might be interested.*

**Happy Holidays from the Office of Institutional Effectiveness!**

## Accreditation

### **Specialized Program Accreditation**

Accredited programs are reminded to submit requests for reimbursement of the fees charged annually to maintain existing accreditation. To do so, please send a copy of the original invoice and proof that payment was initiated (e.g., receipt, Procard statement, signed voucher, etc.) to Cathe Springsteen, assistant director, integrated program review and accreditation, at [kathleen.springsteen@wmich.edu](mailto:kathleen.springsteen@wmich.edu). Please also include the fund 11 department number that will receive the reimbursement. Additional information regarding accreditation reimbursements, as well as seeking, maintaining, and transferring specialized program accreditation is published in the Policies and Procedures guide on our website at <https://wmich.edu/effectiveness/accreditation/specialized>.

# Assessment

## Assessment in Action Conference 2022

Mark your calendar to join us for the **12th Annual Assessment in Action Conference**, set to take place virtually on **Friday, April 8, 2022!** This one-day event is designed to provide a venue to share ideas, thoughtful presentations and practical applications around topics pertaining to outcomes assessment. The focus of the 2022 conference will be on data-informed teaching and learning for the success of our students both in and outside of the classroom. Look for more information to come this spring!

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## Assessment Mini Grants

The University Assessment Steering Committee and Office of Institutional Effectiveness are pleased to offer the Assessment Mini Grant Program once again for the purpose of supporting projects related to outcomes assessment and to help programs and units to advance their assessment work to the next stage of the assessment cycle. The intent is to provide support for assessment of learning and to help advance the assessment process from the very beginning, or for those at more advanced stages of the process to continue to progress. Funding of \$15,000 is available this fiscal year (through June 30, 2022) with a maximum award of \$1,500. All full- and part-time faculty, staff and graduate students are eligible to apply. Applications are due by 8 p.m. on **Monday, January 31**. [View more information and apply.](#)

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## National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) and Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (FSSE) - Spring 2022

This spring, WMU will be participating in both the National Survey of Student Engagement and the Faculty Survey of Student Engagement. Together these surveys can help us to learn about the college experiences of our students, the extent to which they engage in educationally effective activities and their perceptions about the institutional environment that support their learning. The data we receive from the NSSE and FSSE can provide insights into areas where we are doing well and where we can make improvements. Starting in March, all first-year and senior students will receive access to take the NSSE and instructors will receive access to take the FSSE.

If you are an instructor, we hope that you will take 15 minutes to participate in the FSSE as your input is very important to us. The more feedback we receive, the better our institution can become. To learn more, you can click on the following links for [NSSE](#) and [FSSE](#). Please contact [Karen Stokes Chapo](#) for questions. Look for more information to come about the surveys in the spring.

Thank you in advance for helping to make WMU a better place!

# Evaluation Systems and Curriculum Planning

## Campus Labs Student Course Ratings System Schedule

For most courses, the Student Course Ratings Instrument becomes available to students at midnight on the first day of the evaluation period and closes at 11:59 p.m. on the last day. For fall and spring semester courses that end prior to exam week, however, student course ratings begin on the official course ending date and continue for an additional nine days (total of 10 days).

In all cases, faculty have until 11:59 p.m. on the day prior to the evaluation period to make changes to course ratings form(s). Because Campus Labs now Anthology Student Course Ratings System (CLCRS) receives data from Banner, all faculty members (full-time, part-time, teaching assistants, and instructors of record), and all courses with three or more enrolled students, are automatically scheduled for the student ratings system each semester/session.

Activity	Spring Term 2022
Open Student Course Ratings Period	Monday, April 11, 2022
Closed Student Course Ratings Period	Friday, April 29, 2022
Final Grades Due	Tuesday, May 3, 2022
Results of Student Course Ratings	Friday, May 6, 2022

More information regarding the Campus Labs Student Course Ratings System can be found at:  
<https://wmich.edu/assessment/evaluationsystems/student-course-ratings-system>

## Integrated Program Review

### Academic Program Review

In spring 2021, Academic Program Review moved to a five-year rotation cycle. Year 1 of the cycle was made up of active degree-granting and graduate certificate-granting programs that completed their self-study reports prior to April 18, 2021. During fall 2021, the Office of Institutional Effectiveness worked closely with deans, chairs, and directors to develop a flexible rotation schedule that provides for even distribution of all remaining active degree-granting and graduate certificate-granting programs to be reviewed while considering the reporting burden of accredited programs and allowing for new programs to be added two

years after they become active. The process has yielded a rotation schedule where approximately 20 percent of active degree-granting and graduate certificate-granting programs will be reviewed each year over a five-year period.

Year 2 of the new five-year cycle begins on January 31, 2022 with a total of 59 programs spanning the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Aviation, Education and Human Development, Engineering and Applied Sciences, and Health and Human Services. The Office of Institutional Effectiveness will be working with programs throughout December and January to ensure self-study completers are identified, provided access to the online reporting system, and signed up for training. Please visit our website at <https://wmich.edu/effectiveness/program/academic> for the full list of affected programs, spring 2022 timeline, and training information. Once training dates are determined, they will be posted on this page. Please contact Cathe Springsteen, assistant director, integrated program review and accreditation, at [kathleen.springsteen@wmich.edu](mailto:kathleen.springsteen@wmich.edu) for more information.

## Strategic Planning

### **University Strategic Planning Process 2021-2022**

The University's strategic planning process to develop a new strategic plan launched in September 2021. Since then structures and resources have been developed to support robust campus engagement and collect insightful feedback from all stakeholder groups across our community, which will assist in the development of a strategic plan for the next 10 years.

Campus engagement activities have included Town Hall gatherings, graffiti boards across different colleges, targeted group meetings, and online opportunities for input and suggestions. In addition, the steering committee and seven key priority sub-committees have begun their work. These activities have been leading conversations around the mission, vision, and identity of our institution.

The Strategic Planning website will continue to publish information and data throughout the entirety of the planning process. Spring 2022 engagement activities will begin in January. For further information, please visit: [wmich.edu/strategic](http://wmich.edu/strategic)

## IE Fast Facts

### **What are six steps to guide an assessment process?**

1. Identify in broad terms what educational goals are valued
2. Articulate multiple measurable outcomes for each goal
3. Select appropriate approaches to assess how well students are meeting the articulated outcomes
4. Select appropriate measures that can be administered, analyzed, and interpreted for evidence of student learning outcomes
5. Communicate assessment findings to those involved in the process of assessment
6. Use feedback to make changes and inform curricular decisions and reevaluate the assessment process with the intent to continuously improve the quality of student learning.

These six steps can be applied to different levels or areas of student learning such as that of a program (e.g. graduate program or a program designed for a living learning community), a major field of study (e.g. music), or a course (e.g. English 1050). The steps are useful for programs in academic units that are degree granting as well as for the wide range of programs and processes that influence learning, such as advising, career preparation or using library resources.



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