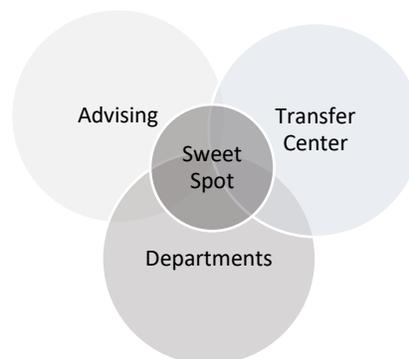Co-Curricular Assessment

Wednesday, November 30, 2022

College life is filled with learning and learning-adjacent experiences. Most learning-adjacent (or co-curricular) experiences, done well, support student learning, growth and development.

Suskie[1] (2014) describes five dimensions of quality co-curricular experiences.

1. Focus – each unit has clear goals and designs experiences in order to meet them.
2. Relevance- well-designed co-curricular experiences meet students needs and consider the needs of the workforce and the community.
3. Community – excellent co-curricular design is integrated with other units or departments, is collegial in nature and works in tandem with the rest of the college to meet larger institutional goals.
4. Evidence – co-curricular assessment asks that units systematically collect evidence of learning.
5. Betterment – Just like in all other areas of assessment, quality co-curricular assessment uses the collected evidence to make changes that improve student learning.

What is Co-Curricular Assessment	What Co-Curricular Assessment is Not
Collecting evidence of student learning attainment as a result of one-on-one tutoring in the Math Center.	The frequency that students attend tutoring.
In conjunction with the Humanities Department, and using the SLOs from Women and Film, offering a week of women-directed films and discussions to support students as they complete their final projects in Women and Film.	Evaluation of a guest speaker.
Teaching students to navigate Transferology and collecting evidence that they have learned this skill and are able to apply it on their own.	Job attainment after graduation.

Where is the sweet spot?

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[1] Suskie, L. (2014). *Five Dimensions of Quality: A common sense guide to accreditation and accountability*. San Francisco: Josey-Bass.

Challenges

1. A culture of silos.
2. Lack of expertise.
3. Time.
4. Focusing on the *process* rather than the *outcome*.
5. Goals that are difficult to articulate and measure.
6. Institutional support.

Where Are We Going?

Culture of Anecdotes

Culture of Evidence

Culture of Bettermenat