

Wright College Academic Department/Program Assessment Project (Math Department) Fall 2015-16

WHAT?

Describe the purpose of this assessment project.

Gather information on student digital literacy.

WHY?

Describe your department/program's reasons for taking on this project and the areas of your department/program that are involved.

We want to find information that crosses across course levels, disciplines, and departments so that we can benchmark student results for SLO # 3 and develop internal targets for improved success.

HOW?

Describe the participants, methods, and the timeline for this project.

The Assessment Committee created a survey for SLO#3 that pulled questions from the 2014 CCSSE. These questions allow us to benchmark results from the fall 2016 semester with our own results in 2014 as well as results from our state and Hispanic-serving national cohorts.

Students were given the survey in fall 2016 for each course they were taking. Results were compiled and would be shared with the department in January 2017. Afterwards, a plan of improvement would be developed and implemented for the spring 2017 semester. The survey would then be re-taken by students at the end of the spring 2017 semester, so that we could gage any improvements made to SLO # 3 on digital literacy.

WHAT WE FOUND

1. Describe the way in which your department/program will collect results. 2. Provide the results. 3. Describe how these results will be used for improvements.

1. Results and benchmarks/targets were gathered and returned to departments in January of 2017 for review. The math department received the survey results and distributed it to faculty for review.
2. Results that matter most for our department are the following two questions:

5. “How has this class encouraged you to use computers in academic work?”

#7. “How has this class encouraged you to solve problems numerically?”

Results from the 2016 survey:

| Question from Survey: | #5 | #7 |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Number of Students responding n | 182 | 182 |
| Percentage of Students who responded “Very Often” | 58.2% | 60.4% |
| Percent Above/Below vs 2014 Benchmark (IL) | 11.2% | 37.8% |
| Percent Above/Below vs 2014 Benchmark (HSI) | 10.2% | 36.0% |
| Percent Above/Below vs 2014 Benchmark (WC) | 8.4% | 38.6% |

The math department determined these two questions were the most relevant to students studying mathematics. Digital literacy in our discipline is of paramount importance, and it is clear from the results that our students are positioned above all benchmarks given. For question #5 students were 11.2%, 10.2%, and 8.4% above benchmarks for Illinois, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and for Wright College, respectively. For question #7, our students scored even higher. They were 37.8%, 36%, and 38.6% above the same respective benchmarks.

How will we use these results for improvements?

Although our students scored above all three benchmarks for questions 5#5 and #7, the math department feels it can do even better. Our improvement plan is outlined below.

Math Department Improvement Plan for spring 2017 semester

#5 - Encourage more students to use computers in academic work.

Faculty will continue utilizing online homework software systems, namely Pearson's MyMathLab. In addition, faculty will encourage student to use computers more often by assigning computer related mathematics research, projects, puzzles, and/or problem solving activities. Topics will be math related and geared toward our students' own interests, aimed to pique their curiosity.

#7 - Encourage students to solve problems numerically.

Faculty will make improved efforts to assign more complicated application type problems which will require numeric answers using a computer. Again, the assignments should be geared toward piquing students' interests.

Next Steps, Re-Survey your students in April

By mid-April, our department plans to have our students take the survey again for each math class they take. This should allow us to see how well we performed against our benchmarks.

