Understanding the ‘Facts’ & ‘Figures’ about our students and their learning.

http://oregonstate.edu/studentaffairs/assessment-osu-perspective

New Student News

On September 18, 2011, approximately 3,181 new students moved into their residence hall rooms and began their academic career at OSU. Survey results of these new students, reveal some of their thoughts and experiences:

- Over 90% of entering new students are most looking forward to “Meeting new people,” “having a great academic experience,” and “having fun.”
- 84% indicated that “being academically successful” is very important to them.
- 61% reported “not being academically successful” is their greatest fear followed closely by 53% saying “not having enough money for school and expenses.”

Approximately 97% expect to have a GPA of 3.00 or better during their first year at OSU.

95% use Facebook regularly followed by 90% Google, 73% YouTube, and 68% iTunes.

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Division of Student Affairs Receives Commendation from the NW Commission on Colleges and Universities

As most of you know, last year OSU was involved in preparing a self-study designed to examine all areas of the University in order to assess how well OSU measures up to the standards of the NW Commission on Colleges and Universities. Additionally, OSU hosted an accreditation site visit team which served as the eyes and ears of the Commission on the OSU campus in April, 2011.

OSU’s self-study along with many supporting documents and web pages were reviewed by the accreditation site visit team. Further, the team met with and interviewed many faculty, staff, administrators, and students at OSU during their three day visit.

The process of maintaining regional accreditation by the NW Commission and the importance of this accreditation to the well-being of OSU involves a commitment of time, energy, and expertise by many faculty, staff, administrators, and students at OSU. This commitment is not only necessary during the site visit preparation time but also throughout the interval between these crucial visits.

The Division of Student Affairs can be proud that our combined efforts over the last 15+ years to develop a culture of assessment within our units and departments has been recognized by the NW Commission as expressed in their letter to President Ray regarding OSU’s regional accreditation status.

In that letter, not only was OSU awarded continued accreditation; in addition, four areas within the University were awarded commendations by the Commission.

The following is an excerpt from the letter regarding the assessment work accomplished by members of the Division of Student Affairs.

“...the robust assessment practices within the division of Student Affairs and the mutually beneficial working relationship between Academic and Student Affairs which serves to facilitate embedded assessment practices in the dialogue, culture and thinking of the division, and subsequently, to result in students’ understanding and appreciation for learning outside the classroom.”

Congratulations to all who worked so hard over these last years to learn, develop and lead our assessment work. Your efforts have and will continue to make a positive difference at OSU and beyond.
Compliance Assist
New Assessment Management Software

This summer the Division of Student Affairs began a transition from Student Voice Management to Compliance Assist in order to manage planning and documentation of full-cycle assessment. The new software is still a part of the Student Voice suite of products but is more user friendly, faster, and better able to meet some of our needs.

Additionally, Student Voice has changed its name to Campus Labs and now offers four products.

OSU Student Affairs subscribes to two of those products, Compliance Assist and Baseline.

Baseline is the new name for Student Voice, the basic assessment software, and Compliance Assist is the name for the assessment planning and management software. Both are available to Student Affairs departments and units.

Comments from Student Affairs users of the new Compliance Assist software have been very positive. As one user wrote, “love this new program.”

Entering information into the Assessment Plans/Report is easy and can actually serve as a guide to units in their assessment work.

Department heads and Student Affairs Assessment Council members have access to all division plans and reports and are also able to submit annual departmental highlights into this system making it much easier to report on departmental and division contributions to the OSU strategic plan.

For more information about Compliance Assist, gaining access, and help with getting your department going with this new tool, contact:

Rebecca Sanderson –541-737-8738 (Rebecca.Sanderson@oregonstate.edu)

Maureen Cochran —541-737-4366 (Maureen.Cochran@oregonstate.edu)

We look forward to helping all Student Affairs departments become proficient in the use of this software as we move forward with our assessment initiatives and our division strategic plan.

New Student News

- Frequency of rating the following items as #1 in terms of importance to entering students:
  - Going to class-68%
  - Studying-28%
  - Exercising-10%
  - Sleeping-8%
  - Attending Beaver sporting events-7%
  - Hanging out with friends-6%
  - Seeking educational activities-4%
  - Partying-3%

- Frequency of rating the following #1 in terms of preferred medium for receiving news and information:
  - Email-30%
  - TV-17%
  - Social media-14%
  - News websites-14%
  - Newspapers-7%
  - Blogs
  - Radio
  - On-Line video
  - Print magazines

For more information about this survey contact: Dr. Eric Hansen, 541-737-7708.
The annual Student Affairs Assessment Council Retreat was held at the Adair Clubhouse on June 23, 2011. This was a time for the Assessment Council to come together for a day to reflect on the work we have done in the past year; discuss Compliance Assist, the new software that is being used for assessment planning and reporting; discuss how people have used the Cultural Effectiveness Rubric; and to discuss the areas on which the council would like to focus for the upcoming year. The council generated a variety of great ideas for how we can continue to move forward.

Individuals from departments across the division gathered, creating an opportunity for them to discuss how they are integrating assessment into their various programs and to share what is/ is not working for each of them.

During the 2011-12 year, the council plans to focus on trying to understand how assessment is used across campus and how the results are used in decision making, in addition, with the introduction of the Student Affairs strategic plan this year, we plan to align the work of this committee with strategic planning initiatives. The council is also considering starting a book club in order to encourage continuous learning and discussion about assessment.

At the retreat, Eric Hansen delivered a presentation on the “Exploring White Identity in a Multicultural World” program that was sponsored by the Housing and Dining Services area. The Cultural Knowledge and Effectiveness rubric, developed by the Student Affairs Assessment Council last year, was used to assess participants’ levels of understanding of the material that was delivered. Hansen found this to be a helpful tool in assessing the level of cultural knowledge of participants in this program. The committee continues to seek others who might be interested in utilizing this rubric.

Reflecting on the past year of activity and plans for the road ahead, the Assessment Council members are continually energized by one another to take their departmental assessments a step further. The Assessment Council is open to anyone in the Student Affairs division who wants to contribute to its efforts.

Rebecca Sanderson, PhD, Director, Student Affairs Research, Evaluation, and Planning was selected as one of 12 Teagle Assessment Scholars for the 2011 cohort by the Center of Inquiry at Wabash College. In 2006, with the support of the Teagle Foundation, the Center established the Teagle Assessment Scholar Program.

The Program “identifies and develops people who have the knowledge, technical skills, social prowess, and political savvy necessary to help colleges and universities use evidence to strengthen the impact of liberal arts education for students. Teagle Scholars support assessment both at their home institutions and at other colleges and universities across the country.”

Teagle Scholars collaborate with faculty, staff, and students to use evidence to improve student learning by participating in site visits to institutions and by helping to facilitate multi-institution workshops.

Additionally, Sanderson, with the help of other Teagle Assessment Scholars, will work on an assessment project at OSU that will further the use of assessment data to improve student learning.

For more information about the Teagle Assessment Scholar Program go to: http://www.liberalarts.wabash.edu/assessment-scholars/

To find out more about the Assessment Council and our meeting dates and times Click HERE. Or, email Rebecca Sanderson or Maureen Cochran for more information.
Greetings! My name is Maureen Cochran; I’m very excited to join the Student Affairs Research, Evaluation and Planning Office in a new role as the Coordinator. I come to you from western Wisconsin where I grew up and attended college. My bachelor’s degree in Psychology is from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and I have obtained two Master’s degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Stout in the areas of Applied Psychology and Training and Development. In graduate school, my area of concentration for the Applied Psychology program was program evaluation.

For the purpose of explaining program evaluation, think of a program as a collection of activities that are performed with a common set of desired outcomes which typically impact another group of people. For example, here in student affairs, we offer a variety of programs in order to enhance the student’s experience at OSU. Program evaluation involves conducting research and collecting data on programs in order to determine the effectiveness, process appropriateness or financial viability. In a time when many people are having to do more with less, it has become vital for people in both the private and public sector to take a look at the effectiveness of their current structures in order to make an informed decision about how to proceed in the future. I am excited to apply this background to the Student Affairs Division as we assist departments with understanding how to effectively assess the outcomes of the work their department performs.

I worked in various areas at the University of Wisconsin-Stout throughout graduate school including Institutional Research, assisting with accreditation assessment efforts in an academic department, and in the Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action (EEO/AA) Office. After completing graduate school I worked full time for the EEO/AA Office which was when I realized my love for working as a professional in higher education. I particularly enjoy having an opportunity to work with a variety of people from across campus. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first couple months of employment here at OSU; I’m really looking forward to learning more and contributing to assessment efforts in the Student Affairs Division.

When I’m not at work, I enjoy cooking, art (particularly, stained glass), photography, hiking, and camping. I have not had an opportunity to camp here in Oregon yet but my husband and I have enjoyed the variety of beautiful areas to hike and explore Oregon’s beautiful countryside and look forward to planning some camping adventures for next summer.