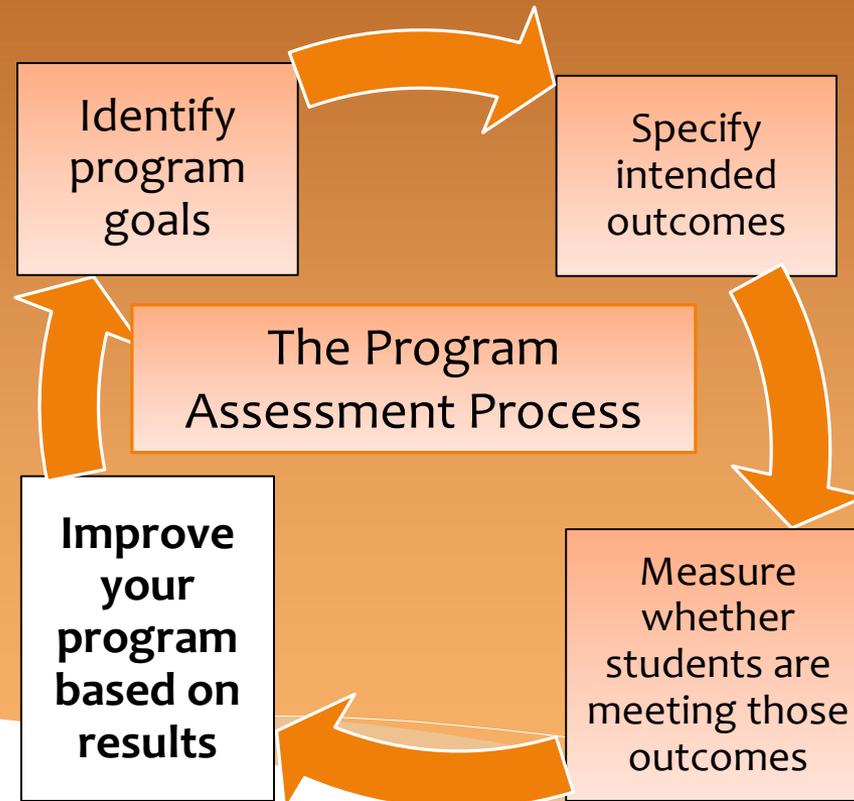


Program Assessment: Understanding and Using Results



**Cathy Barrette, Director of Assessment
Wayne State University**

Understanding and Using Data

- * Collecting data is an important step in program assessment, but is only useful if programs understand and then use the data for program improvement
- * Some fundamental steps to using data include:
 - * Evaluating the data
 - * Summarizing the data
 - * Identifying steps to take to maintain or improve students' learning
 - * Carrying out those steps

Evaluating your Data

- * Before making decisions based on your data, it's a good idea to evaluate the information you've gathered. Some useful questions include:
 - * Did the assessment provide the data you hoped?
 - * Was the scoring system useful and accurate?
 - * How well does the data represent the range of students in our program?

Summarizing your Data

- * Once you're confident the data provides appropriate information, it's time to understand your data. Some useful questions faculty and staff might discuss include:
 - * How many students met your program's expectations?
 - * In what way(s) did students (not) meet them?
 - * What successes or concerns arose from the data?
 - * What are the common themes in the data?

Identifying Next Steps, pt. 1

- * If students met your expectations, your next step might be as simple as:
 - * Continuing to assess the outcome the following year
 - * Raising the bar so that more students have to meet the same expectations the next year
 - * Adding another assessment to measure the same outcome to get a more balanced picture
 - * Revising a grading rubric to get better data and improve feedback to students

Identifying Next Steps, pt. 2

- * If students did not meet your expectations or if results were unclear, some possible next steps might be:
 - * Revising how a particular concept or skill is addressed
 - * Increasing the number of courses or services that incorporate a particular concept or skill
 - * Redesigning the assessment used
 - * Modifying what is required vs. elective
 - * Collaborating with academic advisors

Local Resources for Program Assessment

- * Cathy Barrette, WSU Director of Assessment

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- * WSU Assessment website (temporary url)

<http://undergrad.wayne.edu/assessment.php>

- * OTL staff, workshops and website:

<http://otl.wayne.edu/>

Want More Information?

- * Additional presentations explain how to:
 - * Write mission statements
 - * Write learning outcomes and curriculum maps
 - * Choose assessments
 - * Use Compliance Assist to record your work
- * Each part has examples and pitfalls to avoid as well!