

Using Assessment Results & Reporting Findings

Part 1

- Using Assessment Results

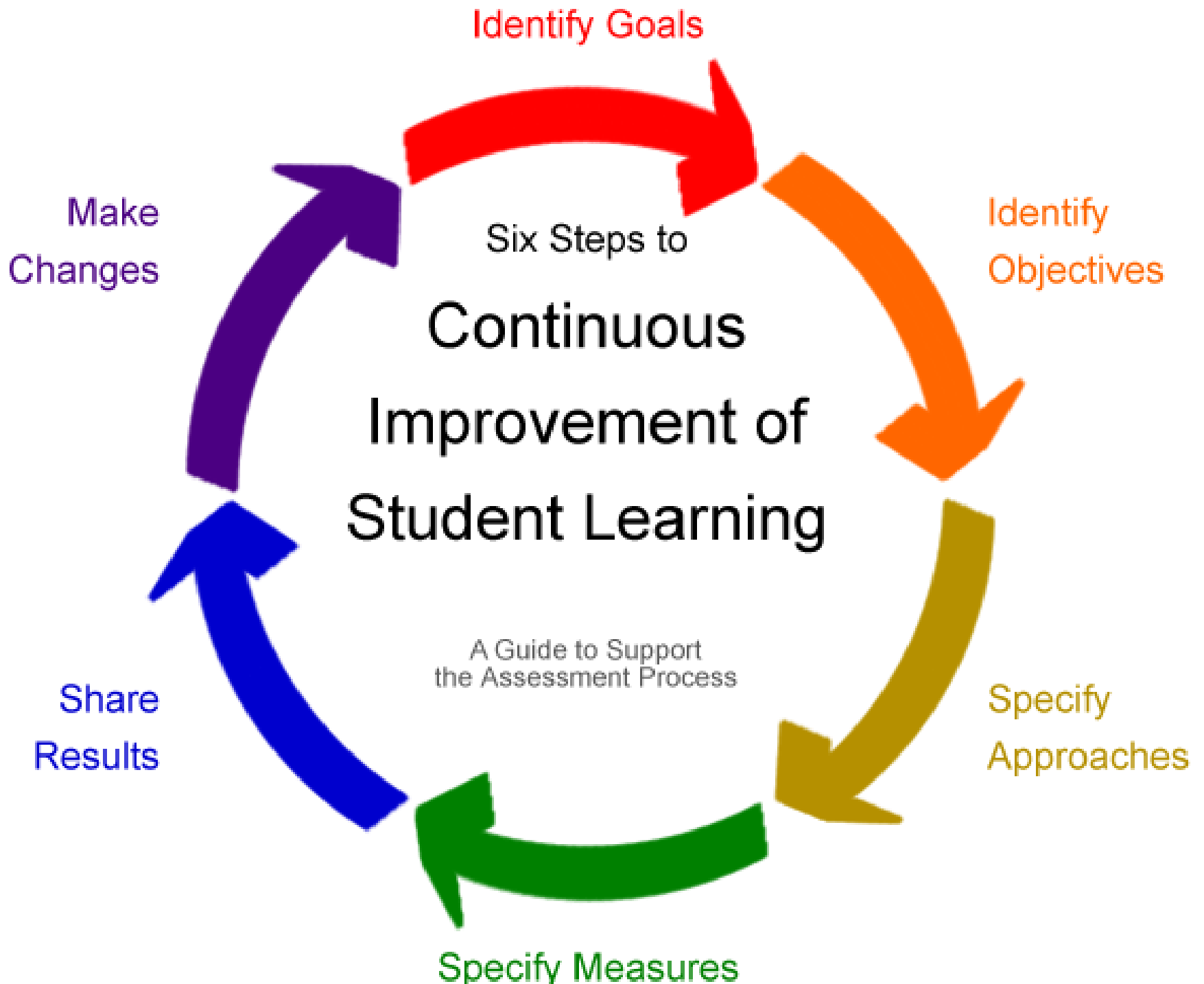
Part 2

- Completing the OUA Report Template

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Using Assessment Results

- Assessment results are of little value unless they are:
 - Shared with the appropriate audiences
 - Meaningful to the appropriate audiences
 - Used to tell a story
- For these reasons, ALL programs are asked to **describe** the findings and uses of assessment results in an annual report

The Assessment Audience

- Accrediting bodies
- Regulatory agencies
- Faculty
 - Curriculum, assessment, or planning committee members
- Chairs, Deans, Provost, etc. (internal)
- Alumni, students, parents, etc. (external)
- Colleagues at other Institutions

Uses for Assessment Results

- Primary Uses:
 - Accreditation
 - Program review
 - Program improvement
- Secondary Uses
 - Recruiting students & faculty
 - Alumni contacts
 - Publications
 - Sharing results with colleagues at other institutions
 - Advisement & career planning
 - Securing grants

How Will Results be Used?

- Internal discussions with faculty
 - Assessment Plan should suggest the kinds of data related to desired student learning outcomes
 - Program improvement
 - Curricular revision
- Reports to other constituents
 - Accreditors may request programs provide an assessment plan and discuss its uses
 - Central administration
 - Program Review

Know Your Audience

- Determine the audience's statistical background
 - What kind of data will they understand?
 - How much do they want?
 - What format(s) will be most effective?
 - Narrative summary
 - Graphs & charts
 - Numerical
- Convert Data to Information
 - Highlight the major findings
 - Highlight any relationships
 - Suggest meaning

Audience Information Processing Preferences

- What does the audience want to know?
- Select an appropriate media/format
 - Print
 - Narrative report
 - Handouts
 - Presentation
 - Multi-media (power point)
 - Web posted materials

Assessment Results Need to be Meaningful

- Assessment is a TOOL used for continuous program improvement :
 - Findings can identify program strengths & weaknesses
 1. Documents that program is working well
 2. Identifies areas for improvement
 3. Decision can be based upon findings

- Results should be shared with ALL faculty to:
 - Provides a basis for faculty conversations
 - Clarify program's outcomes
 - Generate ideas for program modifications
 - Review assessment plan and processes

Become Familiar with Your Data

- Use Descriptive Methods
 - Frequency distributions
 - Cross-tabs for group/subgroup patterns (gender, ethnicity, program emphasis, etc.)
 - Meaningful indicators (n, %, means)
- Connect results with the learning outcomes in the Assessment Plan
- Summarize results as findings

Tell a Story

- Summarized results as information
 - Distribute a written report
 - Present findings at multiple faculty/committee meetings
- Guide faculty discussion of the findings:
 - What do the results tell us?
 - What changes are indicated?
 - How can the program use the findings to best advantage?

Uses of Assessment Results

For example:

1. An alumni survey might reveal that graduates perceive a deficiency expected in the job market
2. Other findings may or may not validate alumni data
 - a. Identify content or skills alumni suggest
 - b. Examine curriculum for content
 - c. Examine course content alignment with outcomes
3. Use alumni data to request course/curricular changes

OUA Assessment Report

- Annual Assessment Reports are expected from ALL programs during the fall semester
 - In general, the report should focus on student achievement from the data collected during the proceeding academic year
 - In general, the Assessment Coordinator should utilize the summer months to organize/analyze assessment data
 - Assessment findings should be presented to and discuss by faculty as early upon their return for the fall term as possible
- Faculty discuss findings and determine program modifications
 - The Annual Report is a summary of these processes

OUA Assessment Report

- The OUA report should include enough information to determine:
 - Students' level of achievement on each outcome
 - The KEY findings & what do results indicate
 - How the findings will be used for program improvement
- Do programs need to report actual data?
 - **NO!**
 - Report should include a summary of student achievements (achievement %s), key findings, and proposed program modifications

Report Template

- Assessment Report
 - Current Assessment Plan
 - Publish on the OUA website
 - Default is No! or Chose Publish Button
 - Student Learning Outcome (SLO)
 - Describe students' overall achievement on each SLO
 - Select a percentages for student performance levels for each SLO

Report Template

- Percentage for students' performance for each Student Learning Outcome
 - 5 to 100% – Fully meeting expectations
 - 5 to 100% - Substantially meeting expectations
 - 5 to 100% - Substantially failing to meet expectations
 - 100% total for each SLO

Report Template

- Narrative in text boxes
 - Key findings:
 - Program Modifications:
 - Other Comments:

Save & Submit

- Submit Button
- Publish Button