



## 2019-2020 Assessment: Helpful Tips and Strategies

The rapid shift to online course delivery during the Spring 2020 semester has impacted many academic programs' and support units' normal assessment practices. This document provides some tips and strategies to help programs and support units as they reconsider previously planned assessment strategies for the current academic year. Programs and support units are strongly encouraged to incorporate unanticipated sources of data into AY19-20 assessment efforts and capture the extent to which the data gathered were used to help guide subsequent actions being taken as the response to COVID-19 continues.

### Tips & Strategies

- Revise or simplify the assessment plan if it is no longer feasible to carry out as intended. For example, it is acceptable to change outcomes to be measured based on more readily available assessment data, decrease the number of measures being used, or develop a new outcome reflective of the unique circumstances experienced in response to COVID-19.
- Summarize feedback gathered from students, faculty, or staff and how the feedback was used on an ongoing basis to guide changes during the semester or to shape plans being made for upcoming terms. Programs and units are encouraged to capture these data-informed changes and plans for subsequent terms in the Findings (and Data-Informed Actions) section as well as in the Assessment Reflections.
- Consider what data the program/department/college/unit currently has, or is currently collecting, and how it can be used for these purposes; the use of indirect, qualitative data may be particularly helpful and appropriate in the current circumstances.
- If intended measures are no longer feasible, consider using alternative assignments or sources of data that may have been implemented following the university-wide changes implemented in response to COVID-19.
- For measures that still provide legitimate results, use those results as the basis for the Assessment Report; for measures/results that were significantly impacted by the changes implemented, simply explain this in the Findings section(s) as well as in the Assessment Reflections.
- If the program or unit determines that sufficient assessment data was collected during Fall 2019, or pre-Spring Break, 2020, it is acceptable for these data to be the focus of the AY19-20 Report.

### Things to Keep in Mind

- **Do the best you can!** Work with what you have/what you can easily obtain.
- Keep a record of how the program or unit adjusted due to the response to COVID-19 and consider using this in the Assessment Report due in the fall.
- The data you collect this spring might not be directly comparable to data you've collected in the past—that's okay! Capturing how students learn and how students, faculty, and staff experienced these unique circumstances will likely provide very meaningful information.
- If the program or unit cannot reasonably collect and report on any assessment data for 19-20, simply explain this in the Findings section(s) of the AY19-20 Assessment Report.