

# TCNJ Assessment Update



Office of Institutional Research & Assessment (609) 771-2143

September 2007 Volume 1, Issue 1

**Discussions & Drop-Ins**  
**Fridays, 11:30 – 12:50**  
**Social Science 331**

**Hosted by the School of**  
**Culture & Society**

## Discussions

**9/7** Dee Fink Follow-up  
**10/5** Alumni Surveys  
**11/2** NJ-COS Survey  
**11/30** CIRP Freshman Survey

## Drop-Ins

Ask questions, get suggestions, and connect with others in your assessment efforts!

**9/21**  
**10/19**  
**11/16**  
**12/14**



## Deadlines & Dates

Liaisons Due **9/12**  
07/08 *Question* Due **9/26**  
CLA Testing **9/17–10/5**  
Advising Surv. **10/8–10/12**  
Tea & Cakes **TBD**  
(last week of exams)

## Assessment Liaisons

For the first time this year, each Academic Program or Department is asked to formally name an Assessment Liaison. In many cases this will be the Department Chair or Program Director, but it can be another faculty member in the department as well.

The Assessment Liaison will:

- Receive support from the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (OIRA) to achieve

program assessment goals;

- Provide a vital link between department faculty and OIRA for shared resources, support and opportunities;
- Ensure timely submission of the *One Question* in September and its *Answer* in May.

Department Chairs and Program Directors are asked to submit the name, email



address and campus phone number of their liaisons to [assess@tcnj.edu](mailto:assess@tcnj.edu) by September 12<sup>th</sup>.

Throughout the Fall semester, Paula Maas, Director of Assessment, will be meeting with all Department Chairs/Program Directors, Assessment Liaisons, and other department members involved in student learning outcomes assessment to discuss their plans and progress.

## One Question/One Answer

For the 2007-2008 Academic Year each program at TCNJ is again expected to ask and answer one assessment question related to a student learning goal in its Learning Goal Matrix. Assessment Liaisons should submit their *One Question* to the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment as soon as possible, but not later than September 26. Questions may be submitted by email to [assess@tcnj.edu](mailto:assess@tcnj.edu) or by completing the on-line form

at the address at the bottom of this page.

A standard format need not be followed, but all documents submitted as the *One Question* for 2007-08 should clearly indicate:

- the Learning Goal (from the program Learning Goal Matrix - if the department would like to submit a revised Learning Goal Matrix, please email to [assess@tcnj.edu](mailto:assess@tcnj.edu))

- the question
- how the information gleaned from the project will be used within the department/program, especially in light of past assessment results.
- the plan for answering the question (method)
- the expected and/or hoped for answers to the question (hypothesis)
- the program or programs being assessed.

## The Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA)

**Paula Maas, Ph.D.**  
**Director of Assessment**  
 Green Hall Room 106

**Phone**  
 (609) 771-2143

**Fax**  
 (609) 637-5136

**E-mail**  
[maas@tcnj.edu](mailto:maas@tcnj.edu)  
[assess@tcnj.edu](mailto:assess@tcnj.edu)

**Web**  
[www.tcnj.edu/~assess](http://www.tcnj.edu/~assess)

*What do you want your student to know or be able to do at the end of your program?*

*How do you determine that they do (know it) or can (do it)?*

This fall we will kick off college-wide liberal learning assessment by participating in the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA) - a national effort of the Council for Aid to Education (CAE). The CLA was cited in the Spellings Commission Report, among others, and provides empirical evidence of the critical thinking, analytic reasoning, problem solving, and written communication skills honed through the college experience.

We are starting with the cross-sectional administration by inviting 100 freshman to participate this fall (September 17<sup>th</sup> – October 5<sup>th</sup>) and 100 seniors in the Spring. Participating students will complete either the 90 minute "Performance Task" – which requires students to answer several open-ended questions about a hypothetical yet realistic situation using an accompanying document library – or the 75 minute "Make an Argument and Critique an Argument Task."

Each student will receive an individual score and a comparison to others at TCNJ and nationally. TCNJ will receive an institutional report placing our students' scores in a national context. Using various statistical measures, an estimate of the "value added" by a TCNJ education is also derived.

For more information visit [www.cae.org](http://www.cae.org).

## Advising Assessment

In October OIRA will be partnering with Robert Anderson, Assistant Provost for Liberal Learning and Advisement, and the Advising Planning Council to obtain baseline student and

faculty perceptions about academic advising.

A total of 400 students will be sampled with a paper-based survey, and all faculty will have the opportunity to

respond to a short on-line survey.

We look forward to sharing the results with the campus community in the continuing conversation in support of academic advising.

## Assessment at TCNJ

Assessment of student learning at institutions of higher education is a systematic process of explicitly stating expected learning goals and outcomes, regularly gathering and analyzing data, and interpreting this evidence to determine the extent to which student performance matches the faculty expectation.

Through this iterative process a program

determines what it is doing extremely well (so it can keep doing that) and where outcomes do not meet expectations. This is an opportunity for programs to examine courses and curriculum sequence, implement change and determine if the action resulted in improvement.

When done efficiently, student learning outcomes assessment is useful both internally, for program

planning and improvement, and externally, for accountability to outside accrediting bodies, state and federal legislative bodies, and the students and parents in our community.

The Office of Institutional Research & Assessment provides support to the TCNJ community in all steps in the process of assessing student learning outcomes.

