

TCNJ Assessment Update
Office of Institutional Research and Assessment
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2006-07 One Question/One Answer (Questions due November 15th)

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One Question/One Answer

Thanks to those who have already submitted their "One Question" for this year!

As the Provost briefly mentioned at the first Academic Leaders meeting on September 6th, and reiterated on October 4th, the student learning outcomes program assessment method of "One Question" will again be followed this 2006-07 academic year. You may use the form at: <https://delphi.tcnj.edu:81/cgi-bin/formgenie/formgenie.pl?form=12816> to submit your question by the deadline of **November 15, 2006**. If you prefer to submit an email or Microsoft Word document instead of using the form, please see the guidelines on the website (<http://www.tcnj.edu/~assess/onequestion.html#QuesSubmit06>), and send submissions to assess@tcnj.edu. If you'd like assistance as your work through the framing of the question or possible methods, please do not hesitate to contact me for assistance or background material. I can be reached by phone at 609-771-2143, or by email at either maas@tcnj.edu or assess@tcnj.edu.

As questions are submitted I will once again be organizing them topically on the website. Resource materials and background readings will be available as links under each topic. In this way the assessment contact for each program will be able to reach out to others pursuing answers to similar questions and resources will be available with the click of a mouse. Of course, as always, if you'd like additional feedback, support or materials, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at 609-771-2143, or by email at either maas@tcnj.edu or assess@tcnj.edu.

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Peter Gray's Visit

Dr. Peter Gray, Director of Assessment at the United States Naval Academy, spent a very successful day with us at TCNJ on Wednesday September 13. In the morning, he gave a presentation to the President's Council on the institutional support needed to encourage a culture of institutional assessment. This was followed by a presentation open to all members of the community entitled: ***Assessment: Making It Meaningful, Manageable and Sustainable***. This PowerPoint Presentation, the three Microsoft Word handouts, and Dr. Gray's Bio are available on-line (http://www.tcnj.edu/~assess/archives_gray.html).

In the afternoon, Dr. Gray led two informal round table discussions. The first centered on ***Course Embedded Assessments and Using the Capstone Experience*** as a program assessment tool. One simple method he shared is allowing all faculty who teach a section of the capstone to present to, and discuss with, the full department the "results" of the capstone experience annually. In this way, if there is an indication that many students seem to be "missing" one of the learning goals of the program, the full faculty can determine the best method of addressing that goal within the curriculum. He also touched on the use of grades as an assessment technique, and stressed that while grades alone are a normative measure (not useful for program assessment in terms of student learning outcomes), but if they are clearly criterion referenced, they can *become* a method of assessing the achievement of course. He also discussed using formative assessment throughout a course for continual improvement – a shift from "How do I teach?" to, "What did my students learn?" From this perspective an instructor can define in concrete terms what type of student work is best, good, fair or poor for each course learning goal and examine student assignments not just for grading purposes, but also with an eye toward assessment of the course.

The topic of the second informal round table discussion was ***Assessment in the Arts and Humanities and Articulating the Results***. Dr. Gray suggested that in these areas the focus of student outcomes assessment must be "the story" – the process of learning, growth and development and articulating this, through the use of examples, to those outside your discipline. Students should be involved in discussing (orally or in writing) their progress toward clearly articulated learning outcomes, reflecting on their learning throughout all four years, and their answers should get more complex and complete each year. Faculty can ask themselves, "Where is my course in relation to foundation courses that 'prepare' students for mine? Are they arriving in my course prepared? Where is my course in relation to those that build on mine? Are they arriving in those next courses prepared?" and the answers to these questions can be discussed and evaluated by the full department, which is program assessment.

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Assessment Website Updates

Two ***new pages*** have been added to the assessment website (<http://www.tcnj.edu/~assess>):

- **Archives** (<http://www.tcnj.edu/~assess/archives.html>)
Links to past *Assessment Updates* and events/workshops sponsored by the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment
- **Resources and Readings** (<http://www.tcnj.edu/~assess/resources.html>)
Categorized references and reading, in PDF format, which will be updated regularly. The "resources and reading page is also a link from the already existing "Assessment Tools" page (more on that below).

These *pages* have been *revised*:

- **Assessment Tools** (<http://www.tcnj.edu/~assess/tools.html>)
The addition of
 - Links to the Writing Program and rubrics and critical thinking therein
 - Link to Assessment Planning with Gloria Rogers on the ABET website
 - Link to “Resources and Readings” page
- **Program Assessment Documents** (http://www.tcnj.edu/~assess/docs_amm.html) - use tabs at top to navigate to documents for each School
Has been continually revised all summer with links to answers and supporting documents to the 2005-06 “One Question” in pdf format.
- **One Question/One Answer** (<http://www.tcnj.edu/~assess/onequestion.html>)
Has been updated with the link to the 2006-07 “One Question” submission form and details on what should be included. Past information on the page has not been deleted, just moved down under “Academic Year 2005-06”

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