

**STUDENT LEARNING  
ASSESSMENT MODEL  
2009 – 2010**



# Student Learning Assessment Model



**Student Learning Assessment Committee**

**2009–2010**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE**

Mesalands Community College was established as Tucumcari Area Vocational School (TAVS) under the Area Vocational School Act of New Mexico during the thirty-third Legislative Session of the State of New Mexico. In January 1979, an act of the Legislature authorized the establishment of an area vocational school in Tucumcari (Statutory Authority: Sections 21-17-1 through 21-17-17 NMSA 1978). The school was authorized to offer programs of vocational education leading to certificates and diplomas.

In November 1993, the institution was authorized by the New Mexico Commission on Higher Education to offer Associate of Applied Science degrees in Business Administration and Computer Information Systems.

In June 1994, the Commission on Higher Education authorized the College to offer the Associate of Applied Science degree for each of its technical/vocational programs. The degree programs were implemented in the fall semester of 1994.

In 1994, the Board of Trustees authorized Tucumcari Area Vocational School to begin doing business as Mesa Technical College in order to more accurately represent the institution to its varied constituents as a small community college.

In the fall semester of 1995, Mesa Technical College implemented a pre-collegiate studies program and expanded its course offerings in general education. In the spring semester 1996, the College began expanding its offerings via distance learning, including the Electronic Distance Education Network (EDEN), a cooperative effort of the universities of New Mexico, PBS and the Internet.

Also during spring semester 1996 the College developed programs in paleontology and geology. Mesalands Dinosaur Museum and Natural Science Laboratories were planned, based on a partnership that developed between the College and the community in recognizing, owning and promoting this region's rich heritage as one of the premier deposits of fossilized ancient life. The community continues to donate considerable time, energy and resources to the Museum for cataloging specimens and providing sites for further exploration. An outgrowth of planning for separate funding of the Museum resulted in the establishment of Mesa Technical College Foundation, Inc., for charitable, scientific, and educational purposes.

On July 1, 1996, Mesa Technical College came under the direction of a new president, Dr. Phillip Barry, who instituted a concerted effort in strategic planning – a prerequisite to addressing institutional challenges and implementing effective change. The College's new direction has manifested itself in significant changes, including the implementation of student learning assessment, institutional effectiveness, and curriculum development. The institution's mission and goals were reviewed and revised, appropriate to the new effort toward community college status.

The President also launched an intensive effort to earn accreditation from The Commission on Institutes of Higher Education of the North Central Association (NCA) of Colleges and Schools. Administration, faculty and staff set forth on a fast track to compress the two-year process normally needed to earn a site visit from NCA into a period of less than a year. In August 1997, these efforts were rewarded when NCA granted Mesa Technical College candidacy for accreditation. In August of 1999, Mesa was granted the status of initial accreditation by NCA, at which time the state allowed the College to begin offering the Associate of Arts degree. In September 2004, the College was granted 10 years of accreditation.

In the fall of 1998, the College launched a new inter-collegiate rodeo program in response to the desires of its students and the locale in which the College is situated. The success of this program led to the establishment of a livestock judging team in 2001.

With the College continuing to grow and mature, the College's name was changed to more adequately reflect its mission. On September 11, 2001, the Board of Trustees renamed the institution Mesalands Community College.

Mesalands Community College offers, as of September 2009, the Associate of Arts Degree with options in Business Administration, Education, Fine Arts/Bronze, Human Services, Liberal Arts, Natural Sciences, Physical Science and Pre-medical Arts. Also offered is the Associate of Applied Science Degree in Agri-Business, Animal Science, Automotive Technology, Business Administration, Business Office Technology, Computer Science, Diesel Technology, Farrier Science, Wind Energy Technology, and Public Administration. Several of these degree programs have options and many of the programs offer certificates.

The College has a broad range of academic and technical programs including four distinctive ones, Farrier Science, Fine Arts/Bronze, Natural Sciences, and the newest, Wind Energy Technology, that have attracted students from several states as well as foreign countries (i.e., Australia, Canada, Germany, and Israel).

During the fall 2009 semester, Mesalands Community College saw a student enrollment of 991 (592 FTE), with a student population of 48% female, and an

ethnic representation of 35% Hispanic, 3% Native American and, 2% African American. Mesalands is the only college within a 90 mile radius, providing opportunity for upward mobility through higher education to an area population of which only 1.8% currently hold an Associate's degree and 5.8% hold a Bachelor's degree or higher. Mesalands Community College, located in Tucumcari, New Mexico, is a small, public, two-year, rural community college serving approximately 6,000 residents, 51% of whom are of Hispanic origin.



## **MISSION STATEMENT**

*Mesalands Community College is an institution of higher education that **promotes student learning** through quality education and services while fostering personal growth, leadership, and opportunity to a culturally diverse community.*

## **GOALS**

*The Goals of Mesalands Community College are to provide:*

- ***An environment where learning is appreciated, encouraged, and assessed.***
- *Academic and technical programs for qualified individuals to enhance their lifelong educational opportunities with an emphasis in a general core base of knowledge.*
- *Accessible, multifaceted services to qualified participants*
- *Opportunities to develop leadership skills and achieve personal growth by valuing academic and social responsibility.*
- *Quality community service programs responding to the diverse needs of the region.*



# **FOUNDATIONS AND EVOLUTION OF ASSESSMENT INITIATIVE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

As explicitly stated in its Mission and its first goal, Mesalands Community College is committed to student learning. The institution realizes that excellence in learning can only be accomplished by vigorous assessment of student academic achievement that serves to improve learning, teaching, strategic planning, and institutional effectiveness.

The Board of Trustees, administration, and faculty of Mesalands Community College are committed to excellence in learning, teaching, and their professional enhancement through the initiation of a comprehensive assessment plan. This plan is focused, practical, user-friendly, issues-oriented, and integral to the fabric of the College.

The diverse perceived benefits of an implemented assessment plan include:

- Enhancement of learning
- Enhancement of teaching
- Improvement of strategic planning
- Demonstration of institutional effectiveness to funding agencies
- Promotion of effective/efficient resource allocation

The College is committed to three basic tenets:

1. Assessment should start small and build incrementally on small successes.
2. Assessment should be cost effective and linked to budget planning.
3. Assessment processes should be routinely reviewed, improved, and re-reviewed.

## **DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE**

Assessment is seen by the College as a means of achieving institutional revitalization rather than an end in itself. Although there were diverse methods of assessment in place and in operation at Mesalands Community College, there was a perceived and obvious institutional need for an integrated approach and an overall plan for assessment. Therefore, in August of 1996, a Student Learning Assessment Committee was formed and charged with researching, developing, and implementing a comprehensive plan for the assessment of

student academic achievement. After significant interaction with the faculty and other members of the College community, and research and analysis of current literature, the committee produced a *Developmental Plan for Student Outcomes Assessment Model* in January 1997 and, subsequently, a *Student Outcomes Assessment Model* in October 1997. Since that time, the Assessment Committee has overseen the implementation of the *Model* and acted as a conduit for College feedback into the assessment process. In 2000, the *Model* was renamed the *Student Learning Assessment Model* to emphasize the fact that assessment was concerned with the whole learning experience and not just with outcomes. At this same time the Assessment Committee was renamed the Student Learning Assessment Committee to maintain continuity.

## CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The Student Learning Assessment Committee initially considered several options for an overall conceptual model for the assessment of student academic achievement. After extensive research, the committee decided to recommend the usage of the Input-Environment-Outcome (I-E-O) Model as expounded by Alexander Astin in his book, *Assessment for Excellence* (1991), which is available in the Assessment Reserve Collection in the College Library.

This model emphasized the necessity of consideration of what the student brings to the course/program/institution, the environment of learning within the course/program/institution, and student outcomes. These three elements are interdependent, and assessment of student academic achievement cannot be worthwhile without consideration of all three. The current plan involves a broad range of assessment measures, both direct and indirect, that are utilized at the classroom, program, and institutional level and at all stages of the student's academic progress.

During the fall 2009 semester, the Student Learning Assessment Committee began implementation of the Plan→Do→Study→Adjust Cycle of Assessment in an attempt to improve the continuity of assessment from academic year to academic year. It is critical that faculty members at Mesalands Community College meaningfully capture and document what they are teaching, what students are actually learning, and how this information is improving the teaching-learning relationship year after year.

The Plan→Do→Study→Adjust Cycle of Assessment process is comprised of four sequential steps and is as follows:

- 1) Plan
- 2) Do
- 3) Study
- 4) Adjust

## Plan

The first (and most critical) step in assessing student learning is to identify the three to five most important knowledge, skills and professional dispositions a student should know/demonstrate once they complete the academic and/or occupational program of study.

- Knowledge refers to what cognitive “book smarts” a student should possess.
- Skills refer to the students’ psychomotor abilities necessary to perform the required job duties. Skills refer to the students’ ability to physically manipulate some type of tool or instrument.
- Professional dispositions (i.e., behaviors and/or attitudes) deal with those soft skills required to be an employable worker.

Once it is determined what the students should learn, the instructor must articulate these three to five knowledge, skills and professional dispositions as program objectives. Program objectives tell our customers (students, parents, employers and other stakeholders) the three to five major things a student will be able to do and know upon graduation. Not only are program objectives our “contract” with the stakeholders, they also drive what is taught in the classroom and how it is taught.

After identifying and documenting the program objectives, course objectives and courses are developed that support accomplishment of these program objectives. If a course or course objective does not support the learning outcomes identified in the three to five program objectives, consideration must be made as to whether or not that course or course objective should be part of the curriculum. It is critical that program objectives be well thought out since all aspects of the learning environment are based on these objectives. Every course objective stated in the program syllabi should support one or more of the program objectives.

Individual course lesson plans are then developed. Individual course lesson plans focus on addressing the stated course objectives. The stated course objectives support one or more of the program objectives. Initially, this portion of the “Plan” stage is the most time consuming portion of the Plan→Do→Study→Adjust Cycle of Student Learning Assessment.

The next focus of the “Plan” stage should be to construct various measurement tools (written tests and exams, practical tests and exams, papers, surveys, etc.) that will accurately and fairly assess whether or not students are accomplishing the stated course and program objectives. It is a common mistake in education to use only one test to measure whether or not students “know” the material. **Triangulation** refers to the use of three (3) different evaluation tools to determine whether or not a single program objective has been met. Having at least three different measures to assess the degree of achievement of a single program

objective is much more valid and reliable than using only one or two measures. Although measurement tools need to be fair, they also need to be discriminatory as to differentiate these students who are meeting the course and program objectives versus those who are not.

In summary, during the “Plan” portion of the Plan→Do→Study→Adjust Cycle:

- Document expected student learning outcomes (program objectives) based on input from shareholders.
- Align curriculum (course objectives and course lesson plans (including textbooks, homework assignments, tests and exams, teaching strategies, field trips, guest speakers, etc.)) with expected learning outcomes (program objectives).

## **Do**

The “Do” portion is the implementation portion of the Plan→Do→Study→Adjust Cycle. This is where the “rubber meets the road.” In short, this is where the teaching, learning and evaluation of learning occur based on the course and program objectives.

Formative and summative assessments should be frequently occurring in the form of written tests and exams, practical tests and exams, papers, surveys, focus groups, classroom assessment techniques (CATs), etc. Formative assessments occur before and during the teaching/learning process while summative assessments occur at the end of the semester. Determine and implement measurement tools to verify what students have actually learned. A conscious effort needs to be made to determine how specific measurement tools assess certain course and program objectives so that the instructor can exactly pinpoint where students are meeting expectations and where improvements need to be made.

## **Study**

The “Study” portion of the Plan→Do→Study→Adjust Cycle involves formally evaluating whether or not the course and program objectives have been accomplished to the level of the stated criterion. This is when the instructor identifies strengths and weaknesses in the individual courses as they pertain to how well the learning that is occurring in the courses is supporting the accomplishment of the program objectives. Sometimes an instructor will identify that a program objective was not accomplished to the satisfaction of the stated criterion based on the formative and/or summative assessment data. The instructor can then work backwards and identify what individual course or courses (and associated course objectives) may have contributed to the “problem” or assessment deficit. Although the instructor may consider this a “problem” that certain program and course objectives were not met, this also

allows the instructor the opportunity to address the learning deficit and make adjustment(s) in future semesters to rectify the situation. Langford (1995) labeled this a problem or noted deficit gives the instructor the opportunity to improve future teaching/learning.

## **Adjust**

Based on the formative and summative assessment data, the instructor will make no more than two or three adjustments to the curriculum with the goal of improving student learning so as to better meet the stated program objectives. This is the instructor's opportunity to focus on what is and what is not working in the program and then make changes based on the data. Changes to an academic and/or occupation program must be data-driven. Once the instructor decides what specific changes s/he will make to improve student learning, a "Plan" on how to implement those adjustments needs to be constructed. This may entail changing lesson plans, revisiting the different measurement tools to see if they are really measuring what you think they are measuring (called validity), etc.

Once the "Plan" is in place, the instructor then implements this new plan via the "Do" portion of the cycle. Formative and summative assessment data is again collected during the learning/teaching process and studied. "Study" of this information will lead to further adjustments to the curriculum. This Plan→Do→Study→Adjust Cycle continues with the goal of continuous improvement of student academic achievement. The ability to make data-driven changes to improve student learning academic year after academic year is referred to as "closing the loop." Assessment results are continuously used to drive positive change. Adjustments made to the program based on the yearly study of data keeps the process of improving student learning a living, breathing, ongoing process.

## **COMMITMENT TO ASSESSMENT**

Assessment is embedded in the fabric of Mesalands Community College and this has been affirmed at all levels of the institution.

1. The Board of Trustees expressed its commitment by passing the following motion at their meeting of November 13, 1996:

*[Mesalands Community College] is committed to the assessment of student academic achievement through diverse methods to facilitate improvement of teaching, learning and strategic planning. We support the development, design and implementation of a comprehensive assessment plan.*

2. The President initiated the development of the assessment process and also hired a Director of Institutional Development whose responsibilities would

include assessment. This individual serves as co-chair of the Student Learning Assessment Committee and is responsible for all data gathering and data analysis.

3. The Dean of Instructional Services also has been instrumental in the evolving assessment process and is a member of the Student Learning Assessment Committee. The Dean regularly provides time during Faculty Council meetings for discussion of assessment topics.
4. The faculty have been actively involved in the development of the assessment process through joint meetings of the Student Learning Assessment Committee and the Faculty Council. One such measure of faculty support for, and interest in, assessment is the participation of faculty in regional and national workshops and conferences focused on assessment.
5. Students are introduced to the assessment process early in their college experience through new student orientation and ACS 100 Student College Success class.

### **COMMITMENT TO EVOLUTION OF THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

Mesalands Community College is committed to the premise that assessment initiatives must continually evolve for the process to flourish. Thus, the Student Learning Assessment Committee is constantly involved in a dialogue with all the constituencies of the College to stimulate feedback-driven changes. This process has led to continual incremental change, and refinement of assessment at all levels of the institution.

Examples of changes instituted in the 2000-2001 academic year included:

1. At a joint meeting on October 20, 2000, the Criterion One/Mission Committee and the Student Learning Assessment Committee proposed changing the Mission statement of the College to reflect the emphasis that the institution places on student learning. The following changes to the Mission and Goals were proposed (with changed wording in **bold**), after dialog between the President's Cabinet, Student Learning Assessment Committee, Criterion One/Mission Committee, and the Institutional Effectiveness, Research and Planning Committee:

#### *Mission Statement*

*Mesalands Community College is an institution of higher education that **promotes student learning through** quality education and services while fostering personal growth, leadership, and opportunity to a culturally diverse community.*

#### *Goals*

***[new]An environment where learning is appreciated, encouraged, and assessed.***

Subsequently, these changes were accepted by the President's Cabinet and by the Board of Trustees in November 2000.

2. The model for assessment was significantly revised in the fall of 2000 to emphasize the feedback on changes in learning as a result of assessment as opposed to the collection of numerical data on assessment. Significantly, the Student Learning Assessment Committee changed the name of the *Model* from the *Student Outcomes Assessment Model* to the *Student Learning Assessment Model*. This reflected the committee's view that the word "outcomes" suggests an undue emphasis on product as opposed to process. Since assessment is involved with all aspects of the learning experience, the Student Learning Assessment Committee agreed that the word "learning" should be substituted in the name of the model.

Examples of changes instituted in the 2001-2002 academic year included:

1. An Assessment Day was added to the fall semester.
2. The results of the CAAP tests began being tracked and distributed to student participants.

Examples of changes instituted in the 2002-2003 academic year included:

1. Development of a new reporting form for faculty to streamline the process of reporting changes made in learning and teaching as a result of assessment measures.
2. Development of institutional assessment priorities to guide the Student Learning Assessment Committee in its assessment initiatives and practices.
3. Greater emphasis placed on institutional level and program level assessment while building on a strong foundation of classroom level assessment.

Examples of changes instituted in the 2003-2004 academic year included:

1. Greater emphasis placed on student education of the assessment process and roles at the College.
2. Development of new institutional assessment priorities, goals, and objectives to guide the Student Learning Assessment Committee.

Examples of changes instituted in the 2004-2005 academic year included:

1. Development of general education goals and objectives that are used to assess prospective graduates' knowledge of general education.

The general education goals and objectives are as follows:

<b>Communicate Effectively</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Present ideas orally according to standard usage.</li><li>2. Present ideas in writing.</li><li>3. Demonstrate application of information technology.</li></ol>
<b>Reason Scientifically and Quantitatively</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>4. Demonstrate mathematical principles.</li><li>5. Demonstrate scientific reasoning.</li><li>6. Apply scientific methods to the inquiry process.</li></ol>
<b>Think Critically</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>7. Read and analyze complex ideas.</li><li>8. Locate, evaluate, and apply research information.</li><li>9. Evaluate and present well-reasoned arguments.</li></ol>

2. Faculty created rubrics used in assessing general education goals and objectives (Appendix A).

An example of change instituted in the 2005-2006 academic year included:

The Faculty Outcomes Assessment form was revised.

Examples of committee activities and changes instituted during the 2006-2007 academic year included:

1. The committee continued to mentor adjunct faculty in assessing student learning. As with previous semesters, two-person teams were established to serve as mentors. Each team selected seven to eight adjunct faculty to mentor.

2. The major activity of the committee for the fall 2006 and spring 2007 semesters was to begin the process of devising rubrics to assess the program objectives for the A.A.S. degrees and for the certificate programs. Preliminary drafts of the rubrics have been completed.

Members of the committee and other College administration and staff attended the annual New Mexico Higher Education Assessment and Retention Conference held in Albuquerque on February 22-23, 2007.

Examples of assessment committee activities instituted during the 2007-2008 academic year included:

1. The committee continued to mentor adjunct faculty in assessing student learning. As with previous semesters, two-person teams were established to serve as mentors. Each team selected seven to eight adjunct faculty to mentor.
2. Members of the committee and other College administration and staff attended the annual New Mexico Higher Education Assessment and Retention Conference held in Albuquerque on February 21-22, 2008.
3. The committee also continued to review the course objectives for new and revised classes.
4. Committee members, along with other faculty, participated in the College's Assessment Days when selected students completed the General Education Assessment (GEA) and Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency Tests (CAAP).

Examples of committee activities and changes instituted during the 2008-2009 academic year included:

1. Mesalands Community College was presented with (and accepted) the opportunity to participate in the Higher Learning Commission/North Central Accreditation's Academy for Assessment of Student Learning as a means to address present and future assessment needs. Participation in the Academy was in lieu of completion of the 07/01/09 Progress Report on Student Learning Outcomes. Mesalands Community College has made a four year commitment to develop and implement a sustainable plan to address the concerns identified by The Higher Learning Commissions' Accreditation Team. The College's Assessment Team (which has been charged with facilitating this commitment) has entitled this "Action Portfolio"/Student Learning Plan **Beyond the Basics: Reinventing Assessment at Mesalands Community College.**

2. Development of a “Student Learning Assessment and Retention” link on the College’s website. This link can be accessed by double clicking the “Academic Programs” link and then double clicking the “Assessment” link on [www.Mesalands.edu](http://www.Mesalands.edu)
3. Revised the format of the Student Learning Assessment Program Report utilizing the Plan→Do→Study→Adjust Cycle of Assessment.
4. Revisited and, when necessary, rewrote program objectives of all applied science programs.
5. Initiated a biannual faculty and staff training day devoted to all things assessment. This recurring event will be referred to as “Assessment Day” and occur during the fall and spring semesters.

# **A COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT PLAN FOR MESALANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

## **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

### **Responsibility**

The assessment process at Mesalands Community College is supervised and administered by the Student Learning Assessment Committee. However, the individual ultimately responsible for the process is the Dean of Instructional Services, who is the Chief Academic Officer of the College. The Dean is a member of the Student Learning Assessment Committee and of the President's Cabinet.

## **STUDENT LEARNING ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE**

### **Committee Structure**

The Student Learning Assessment Committee exists as a standing committee of the College. The committee is charged with planning for, and overseeing the implementation of, institution-wide assessment of student academic achievement.

The committee is composed of 10 members including the Dean of Instructional Services, four full-time faculty, two adjunct faculty/professional staff, two student members and a non-voting secretary. The committee meets once a month and as needed. Its meetings are open to the College community and minutes are prepared, approved, and made available to interested parties. Members of the College community are encouraged to attend meetings.

### **Committee Purpose**

The committee is charged with entering into an ongoing dialog with the College community about the assessment of student academic achievement. As a result of this dialog, the committee designs a plan for the assessment of student academic achievement at the institution and oversees the implementation and continuous re-evaluation of this plan.

## Committee Objectives

*The Student Learning Assessment Committee has four explicit objectives that are stated in this Student Learning Assessment Model. The objectives of the Student Learning Assessment Committee are to:*

- Objective 1 Enhance the knowledge of the faculty at Mesalands Community College about the assessment of student learning by conducting meetings and workshops, distributing materials, and by providing resources (e.g., Assessment Reserve Collection in the Library). One issue of *Assessment News* will be published each fall and spring semester and all faculty will receive a copy of *Faculty Assessment Notes* by the first week of classes. The Student Learning Assessment Committee will have at least one joint meeting with the Faculty Council every semester.
- Objective 2 Spearhead the development of assessment at the College by producing, if needed, by November 30 each year, a revised *Model*.
- Objective 3 Facilitate and implement the development of feedback loops and information dissemination about assessment at the College by:
- a. producing an annual report by September 15 of each year
  - b. producing two issues of *Assessment News* each academic year
  - c. providing all faculty with copies of *Faculty Assessment Notes* each academic year
  - d. having at least one joint meeting with the Faculty Council every fall and spring semester
  - e. providing all adjunct and new faculty with assessment-related training and an assessment mentor
  - f. presenting information on assessment at every new student orientation and at each section of ACS 100 Student College Success, including delivery of the brochure *Student Guide to Educational Assessment*
  - g. conducting a biannual Assessment Day to be held every fall and spring semester. The biannual Assessment Day is a joint meeting between the committee and all full-time faculty used to discuss, update, and refine the assessment practices at the College.



Priorities	Goals	Objectives	Responsible Individual(s)
		<p>3. Updated program objectives will be posted on the "Learning Assessment and Retention" link of the Mesalands Community College web site. Consideration will be made whether or not to include the program objectives in future course Catalogs.</p> <p>4. Lead instructors teaching courses related to general education competencies will be asked to meet and revisit those competencies and related rubrics. The goal is to revisit each of the three general education competencies (communication, quantitative and scientific reasoning, and critical thinking) over the course of the next three years as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication (2009-2010)</li> <li>• Critical Thinking (2010-2011)</li> <li>• Quantitative and Scientific Reasoning (2011-2012)</li> </ul> <p>Once rubrics are developed, embedded assessment utilizing the rubrics will be implemented during that same academic cycle in order to measure general education competency attainment. Finalized competencies and rubrics will be posted in both in the Catalog and the "Learning Assessment and Retention" link of the Mesalands Community College web site.</p> <p>5. Implement the new report format for program assessment for the 2009-2010 reporting cycle.</p> <p>6. Activate the "Learning Assessment and Retention" website links.</p>	<p>Student Learning Assessment Committee, Coordinator of Institutional Computing and Dean of Instructional Services.</p> <p>Student Learning Assessment Committee, Dean of Instructional Services and Lead Instructors and Coordinator of Institutional Computing.</p> <p>Student Learning Assessment Committee and Lead Instructors.</p> <p>Student Learning Assessment Committee and Coordinator of Institutional Computing.</p>

Priorities	Goals	Objectives	Responsible Individual(s)
		<p>7. Need for better training of adjunct faculty on the importance of assessment and the assessment process.</p> <p>8. Establishing an assessment plan for the proposed distance education degree programs with consideration being made on how to best embed assessment across all sites and tie that to the assessments being used at the main campus.</p> <p>9. Develop more user friendly general education rubrics.</p> <p>10. Biannual report (June and December) to the Board of Trustees on assessment related activities.</p>	<p>Student Learning Assessment Committee and Lead Instructors.</p> <p>North Central Committee and Student Learning Assessment Committee.</p> <p>Student Learning Assessment Committee and Lead Instructors.</p> <p>Student Learning Assessment Committee Chair</p>

### **DATA COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION**

The Student Learning Assessment Committee (SLAC) is responsible for collecting and disseminating information about assessment. SLAC realizes that program directors, lead instructors and faculty are the experts when it comes to evaluating assessment results and making adjustments to the curriculum based on those results. To that end, SLAC only assists in the interpretation of assessment data. Program directors and lead instructors are charged with implementing the PDSA cycle of assessment. As previously stated, this includes interpreting the data and making changes to the curriculum based on that data. Program directors and lead instructors create an annual Student Learning Assessment Report similar to that presented in Appendix B. The Student Learning Assessment Report format can and should be modified to better suit the needs of the different programs.

Data are provided by individual faculty at the course level on a standard form (Appendix C). The form is available to faculty electronically so that each faculty member will be able to efficiently submit the form for each class that is being assessed. These forms report activities of student learning assessment completed by faculty in courses.

Additional information on student learning assessment is provided by the Director of Institutional Development, Coordinator of Institutional and Enrollment Data, Director of the Educational Services Center, and by ACT.

## DATA DISSEMINATION

The Student Learning Assessment Committee has nine regular avenues for disseminating information:

1. The Student Learning Assessment Committee produces a newsletter (*Assessment News*) that is distributed to all College employees, posted on the Student Activities Board, and posted on the Student Learning Assessment and Retention link of the College web site. This newsletter provides information about assessment measures at the College and short articles addressing principles and practices of assessment.
2. Every September the committee produces an annual report on assessment from the previous academic year that is forwarded through the Dean of Instructional Services to the President's Cabinet. After approval by the Cabinet, the annual report is distributed to individual faculty. Starting in the fall of 2001, a copy has been retained in the Assessment Resource Collection in the College Library. Interested individuals may obtain copies from the Student Learning Assessment Committee.
3. The Student Learning Assessment Committee has at least one joint meeting with the Faculty Council during the fall and spring semesters.
4. Each year, all faculty are provided with a copy of the *Student Learning Assessment Model* by the committee.
5. Each year, all faculty (full-time and adjunct) are provided with a copy of *Faculty Assessment Notes* (a synopsis of assessment measures at the College and assessment methodologies).
6. Each semester, adjunct faculty and new full-time faculty are provided with a mentor from the Student Learning Assessment Committee. Assessment mentor training was established fall 2002.
7. A presentation on assessment is made during every new student orientation and in each section of ACS 100 Student College Success.
8. All new students are provided a copy of the *Student Guide to Educational Assessment* brochure. This brochure is also included on the Student Learning Assessment and Retention link of the College web site.
9. On December 12, 2008, the Student Learning Assessment Committee initiated a biannual Assessment Day to be held every fall and spring semester. The biannual Assessment Day is a joint meeting between the committee and all full-time faculty used to discuss, update, and refine the assessment practices at the College.

## **FEEDBACK LOOPS**

It is paramount to the success of the assessment process that there are both feedback loops and incentives for faculty to participate. The Student Learning Assessment Committee provides a number of documents that facilitate feedback loops:

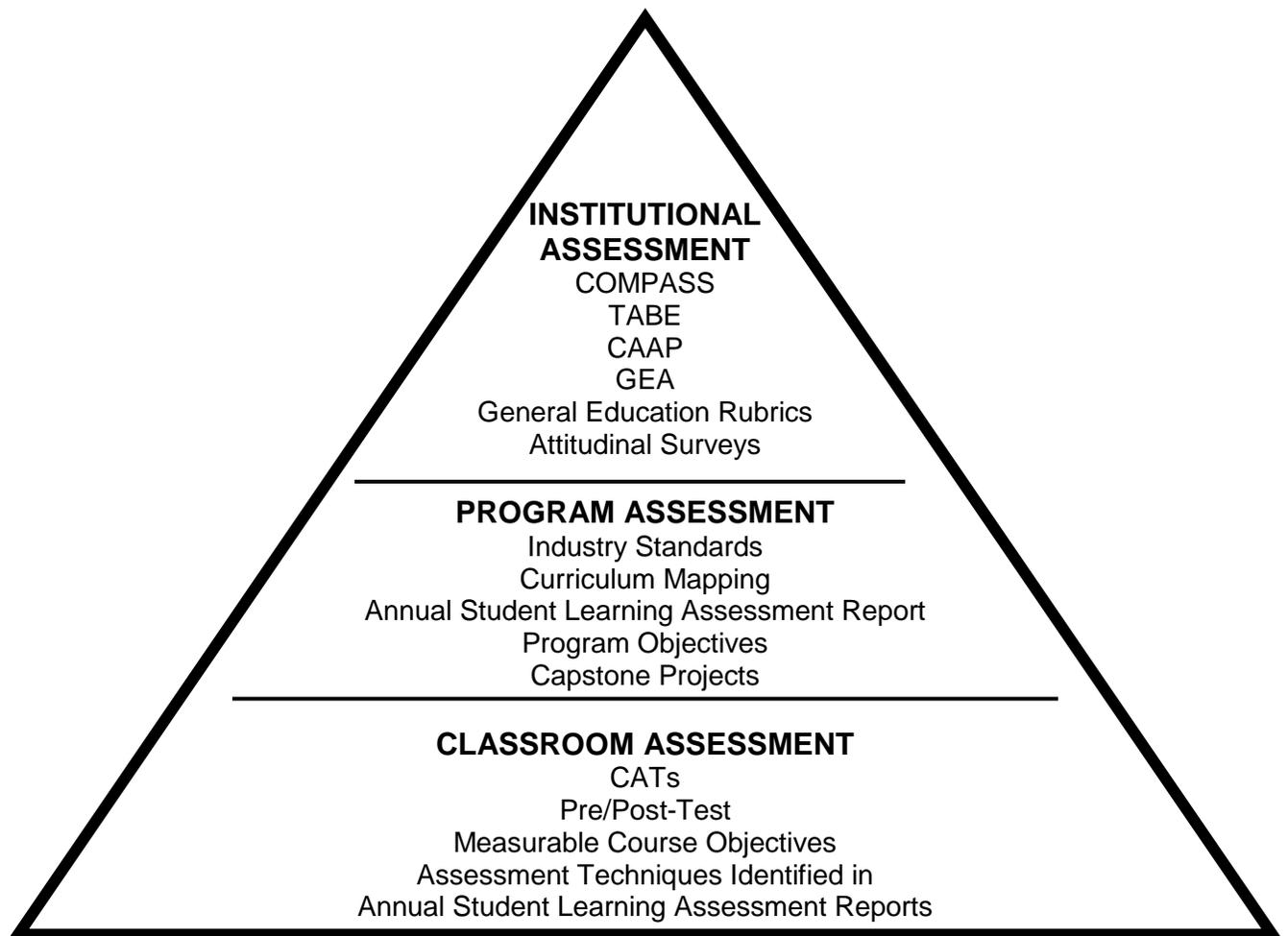
1. Semester reports on data collected from faculty on assessment of student learning at the College at the course level.
2. Annual reports on the progress of assessment during the academic year. The annual report of the Student Learning Assessment Committee is presented by the Dean of Instructional Services (a member of the committee) to the President, who forwards it to the Board of Trustees, which then reviews it at one of their regular public meetings.
3. A Student Learning Assessment Evaluation Rubric to assess assessment at the College. (Appendix D)

Please see Appendix E for History of Data Dissemination and Feedback Loops.



## ASSESSMENT EMBEDDED THROUGHOUT THE INSTITUTION

Mesalands Community College realizes that meaningful and effective assessment must be pervasive throughout the institution; therefore, assessment is embedded throughout the College at all stages of the student's academic career:



Assessment is conducted at each of the three levels of the College: institutional, program, and classroom. As the pyramid shows, multiple assessment measures are used to assess student learning at each of the three levels. The purpose of the multiple measures at multiple levels is to assess student learning at each stage of their academic career at Mesalands Community College.

## **Classroom Level Assessment**

Individual instructors utilize pre/post-tests and Classroom Assessment Techniques (CATs) in their classes.

Beginning with the fifth academic year of implementation (2001-2002), each instructor was required to utilize one Classroom Assessment Technique (CAT) per credit of the course (up to three), as well as administer a pre-/post-test in every class. Currently, the same standards are being used for CATs and pre-/post-tests. Results of these assessment measures are reported to the Student Learning Assessment Committee at the end of each semester on the Faculty Outcomes Assessment Form (Appendix C).

Faculty maintains current course syllabi to include measurable course objectives and, if necessary, revise their measurable objectives each semester. Subsequent to spring 1998, all classes offered each semester have been required to have a course syllabus, which includes at least two measurable objectives, on file with the Dean of Instructional Services. These objectives must be assessed at the end of every semester the course is offered, and the results of this assessment are also reported to the Student Learning Assessment Committee on the Faculty Outcomes Assessment Form. Adjunct faculty are required to carry out the same level of assessment as full-time faculty. Beginning with the summer of 2005 the faculty will also use the Faculty Outcomes Assessment Form to report changes they made for each course during the semester as a result of assessment. This form has incorporated the previously used Faculty Change Form.

## **Academic Program Level Assessment**

Program assessment has five main components:

1. Each applied science program (degree and certificate) has identified measurable program objectives that are reviewed every fall semester and revised as needed. Associate degree majors are assessed with general education rubrics throughout their course of study and during Institutional Assessment Day. All degree and program objectives are published on the Student Learning Assessment and Retention link on the College web site.
2. Two programs (Building Trades and Farrier Science) utilize industry standard examinations.
3. Three programs (Business Administration, Computer Information Systems, and Farrier Science) utilize capstone courses.

4. By November 1 of each year, the program director or lead instructor of each program will complete the PDSA cycle of assessment by producing an Annual Student Learning Assessment Report.

### **Institutional Level Assessment - Instructional**

The principal institutional-level assessment measures are the Computer-Adaptive Placement Assessment and Support System (COMPASS) and the ACT Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP) tests. These tests provide pre- and post-test information on student learning at the institutional level in the areas of English, math and reading.

The General Education Assessment (GEA) is a College designed assessment tool used to evaluate general education competency (communication, scientific and quantitative reasoning, and critical thinking) attainment.

Additional information is obtained from attitudinal surveys (i.e., Student Opinion Survey). Data from these sources are analyzed by the Coordinator of Institutional and Enrollment Data.

### **Institutional Level Assessment - Administrative**

The Dean of Instructional Services, who is a member of the Student Learning Assessment Committee, is in charge of the budget planning process and is a member of the President's Cabinet. Thus, the opinions, desires, and needs of the committee can be communicated directly to the highest levels of decision making and strategic planning at the College. Assessment has its own line item in the College's budget to provide for testing, educational materials, travel to meetings, and other expenses. The budget for the Student Learning Assessment Committee was \$8,000 for the 2009-2010 academic year, demonstrating the commitment of the College to the assessment process.

In addition, the College created a position in 1998 for a Director of Institutional Development whose responsibilities include assessment, research, and planning. This individual is a member of the Student Learning Assessment Committee and is responsible for all data gathering and data analysis at the College, including that of assessment. The Director provides for smooth integration of institutional effectiveness, assessment, and planning at the College. This position is presently vacant.

## ASSESSMENT MEASURES AND STUDENT ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Not only is assessment embedded throughout the structure of the College, it is also enmeshed at all stages of the student's learning experience at the College.

### Assessment Prior to Registration

The Educational Services Center oversees a comprehensive Success Assessment of incoming students. The College requires all students who are in a degree program or anyone wishing to take an English or math class to take the ACT Computer-Adaptive Placement Assessment and Support System (COMPASS) test. This test is administered by the staff of the Educational Services Center and is used to place students in requisite English, math, and reading courses.

The Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) is required for students who have not completed a high school diploma or GED. This test is also administered by the Educational Services Center and students are subsequently counseled by Student Services staff.

<b>Mesalands Community College</b>				
<b>ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT</b>				
<b>PRIOR TO REGISTRATION</b>				
ASSESSMENT TOOLS	TARGET POPULATION	DISTRIBUTION OF RESULTS	USE OF RESULTS	RESPONSIBILITY
ACT COMPASS	All students in degree programs, and all students taking core English or math	Student Services, faculty advisers	Placement in English, math, and reading classes	Director of Educational Services Center
Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE)	Required for students who do not have a high school diploma or GED	Student Services, faculty advisers	Placement in technical classes	Director of Educational Services Center

### Assessment within Semester and End of Semester

Individual instructors utilize one Classroom Assessment Technique (CAT) per course credit hour (up to four) and pre- and post-tests within their classes as reported to the Student Learning Assessment Committee on standardized forms (Appendix C). In addition, instructors in pre-collegiate classes utilize the pre- and post-test portions of the TABE as a pre-test/post-test in their classes. Students take the portion of the TABE relevant to the class in which they are enrolled.

Faculty also assess student learning within a class by use of measurable course objectives (minimum of two per course) as stated in the course syllabi. Results

of this assessment are reported to the Student Learning Assessment Committee at the end of each semester with changes made as a result of the findings by the faculty member, as well as those changes to be made the next time they offer the course (Appendix C).

The Withdrawing/Non-Returning Student Survey is given to all students who leave the College prior to earning a certificate or a degree. Data from this survey are reviewed by the Director of Institutional Development. However, it is clear that many students do not complete the survey and, if they do, their opinions may be colored by feelings of lack of success and dissatisfaction. This survey had produced a small number of responses in prior years and so, since 1998, this survey is sent to students who are transferring to other institutions directly after graduation. Thus, this survey will overlap with the Alumni Survey, but it will differ in that it will sample responses of recent attendees, whereas the Alumni Survey samples a broad range of graduates.

<b>Mesalands Community College</b> <b>ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT</b> <b>WITHIN SEMESTER AND END OF SEMESTER</b>				
ASSESSMENT TOOL	TARGET POPULATION	DISTRIBUTION OF RESULTS	USE OF RESULTS	RESPONSIBILITY
Appropriate course-embedded CATs	All current students	Sharing of results by participating faculty	To determine effects of instruction and foster continuous improvement in student learning	Individual faculty with assistance from the Assessment Committee
Pre- and post-tests in all courses	All current students	Sharing of results by participating faculty	To determine effects of instruction and foster continuous improvement in student learning	Individual faculty with assistance from the Assessment Committee
TABE or approved common test as pre-/post-test in pre-collegiate classes	All current students in pre-collegiate courses	Director of Educational Services Center, pre-collegiate faculty	To determine effects of instruction and foster continuous improvement in student learning	Individual faculty teaching pre-collegiate classes
Measurable Course & Program Objectives	All current students	Sharing of results by participating faculty	To determine effects of instruction and foster continuous improvement in student learning	Individual faculty with assistance from the Assessment Committee
Withdrawing/ Non-Returning Student Survey	Students who leave during the semester or who do not return next semester and those who transfer to another institution	Within Student Services and Instructional Services	To assess completion of student goals	Director of Institutional Development

## **Assessment at End of Program**

The principal institutional level assessment measure at the end of programs is the appropriate ACT Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP) test(s) taken by all students receiving a degree, or those who have completed 60 credit hours in the semester when the CAAP is offered. Students who have not completed basic English (ENG 102), math (MATH 110), or science (any four-credit science class), will not take the relevant portions of the CAAP tests. The CAAP tests are given on a specifically designated Institutional Assessment Day, during the fall and spring semesters.

The general education assessment (GEA) is completed at the same time for students that are graduating in either the fall or spring. The GEA is a series of projects which the students are required to complete on Institutional Assessment Day to provide faculty with feedback in the three general education competency areas of communication, critical thinking, and scientific and quantitative reasoning. The GEA is scored using rubrics.

At the discretion of the lead instructor, Arts and Sciences/Applied Sciences programs (Business Administration, Computer Information Systems, and Farrier Science) utilize capstone projects as an assessment measure at the culmination of programs. These courses incorporate skills learned during the entire course of study at Mesalands Community College, evaluating how well students integrate these skills and knowledge.

Several programs utilize industry standard examinations at the end of programs. For example, Farrier Science and Building Trades use industry standard examinations.

Mesalands Community College ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT END OF PROGRAM				
ASSESSMENT TOOL	TARGET POPULATION	DISTRIBUTION OF RESULTS	USE OF RESULTS	RESPONSIBILITY
General Education Assessment (GEA)	All students completing 60 credit hours or those petitioning to graduate	Instructors	Assess student learning and development	All faculty
ACT CAAP	All students completing 60 credit hours	Within Student Services and Instructional Services	Assess student learning and development	Director of Institutional Development
Capstone Courses/ Projects	Degree-seeking Business Adm., Computer Information Systems, Farrier Science students	All instructors involved	Assessment of overall student learning in applicable programs	Lead instructors in applicable programs
Program Outcomes Assessment Form	All A.A., A.A.S., and certificate programs	All employees	Assessment of program health	All lead instructors and program directors

### Assessment after Graduation

The Institutional Effectiveness Committee conducts an annual Alumni Survey that provides qualitative data on the success of various aspects of student learning (cooperation and cooperative working). The results of this survey are analyzed and utilized by the Student Learning Assessment Committee.

Mesalands Community College ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AFTER GRADUATION				
ASSESSMENT TOOL	TARGET POPULATION	DISTRIBUTION OF RESULTS	USE OF RESULTS	RESPONSIBILITY
Alumni Survey	All College graduates	Student Services, Instructional Services	Gauge student's assessment of learning experience	Director of Institutional Development

### Other Assessment Measures

Other assessment measures are utilized by the College on timeframes independent of the academic progress of individual students. Thus, the Student Opinion Survey is implemented in the spring semester of even years and given to second year students by the Director of Institutional Development. This provides qualitative data on students' opinions of student learning.

Academic Program Review is carried out every year for two programs or disciplines. Revision of the manual for this process in fall of 1998 added a significant component of assessment.

Mesalands Community College ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT PERIODICALLY				
ASSESSMENT TOOLS	TARGET POPULATION	DISTRIBUTION OF RESULTS	USE OF RESULTS	RESPONSIBILITY
ACT Student Opinion Survey	Sample of second year students	Instructional and Student Services, President's Cabinet	Assess attitudinal aspects of students' responses to learning	Director of Institutional Development
Academic Program Review	All programs on a rotating basis	Faculty, Board of Trustees, President's Cabinet, Advisory Committees	For stimulating changes in assessment process at the program level	Dean of Instructional Services

### SYNTHESIZED ASSESSMENT MODEL FOR A LEARNING-CENTERED INSTITUTION

Mesalands Community College has a meaningful and pervasive assessment process that is instilled into the institution. Fourteen defining characteristics demonstrate the effectiveness of assessment at the College:

1. **Commitment** to assessment is demonstrated by many factors, including a Board of Trustees statement in favor of assessment and the establishment of the Student Learning Assessment Committee.
2. Committee as a **standing committee of the College**.
3. Establishment and maintenance of a **budget line item** for assessment.
4. Mesalands Community College has numerous **explicit expressions** of its commitment to assessment including sections in each revision of the College Catalog, Faculty Handbook, Student Learning Assessment & Retention link on the College web page and Student Handbook.
5. The College utilizes **multiple measures** of assessment, including direct and indirect measures of learning.
6. Assessment is implemented at the classroom, program, and institutional levels – in fact, there is **assessment at all institutional levels**.
7. There is **assessment at all academic stages** of the student's advancement.
8. **Measurable objectives** are in place for every course taught at the College and measurable program objectives are published on the Student Learning Assessment & Retention link on the College web page

9. Numerous methods of **feedback** are a part of the assessment process at the College.
10. **Incentives** are in place to encourage faculty to buy into assessment, including awards for outstanding proponents of assessment every year.
11. **Data dissemination** is a major goal of the Student Learning Assessment Committee and is accomplished through vehicles such as *Assessment News* which is completed each semester; additionally, semester and annual assessment reports are completed to disseminate data.
12. **Continuous progress** in the assessment process is demonstrated by the numerous refinements that have been adopted since 1997.
13. The Student Learning Assessment Committee is dedicated to **continuous refinement** of the assessment process not just through annual reviews of the *Model*, but also through changes to forms and procedures almost every semester as documented in the annual reports of the Assessment Committee.
14. **Change as a result of assessment/closing the loop** via the Plan→Do→Study→Adjust cycle of assessment is central to successful programs and is demonstrated at the College in every Faculty and Program Assessment Outcomes Form submitted every semester.

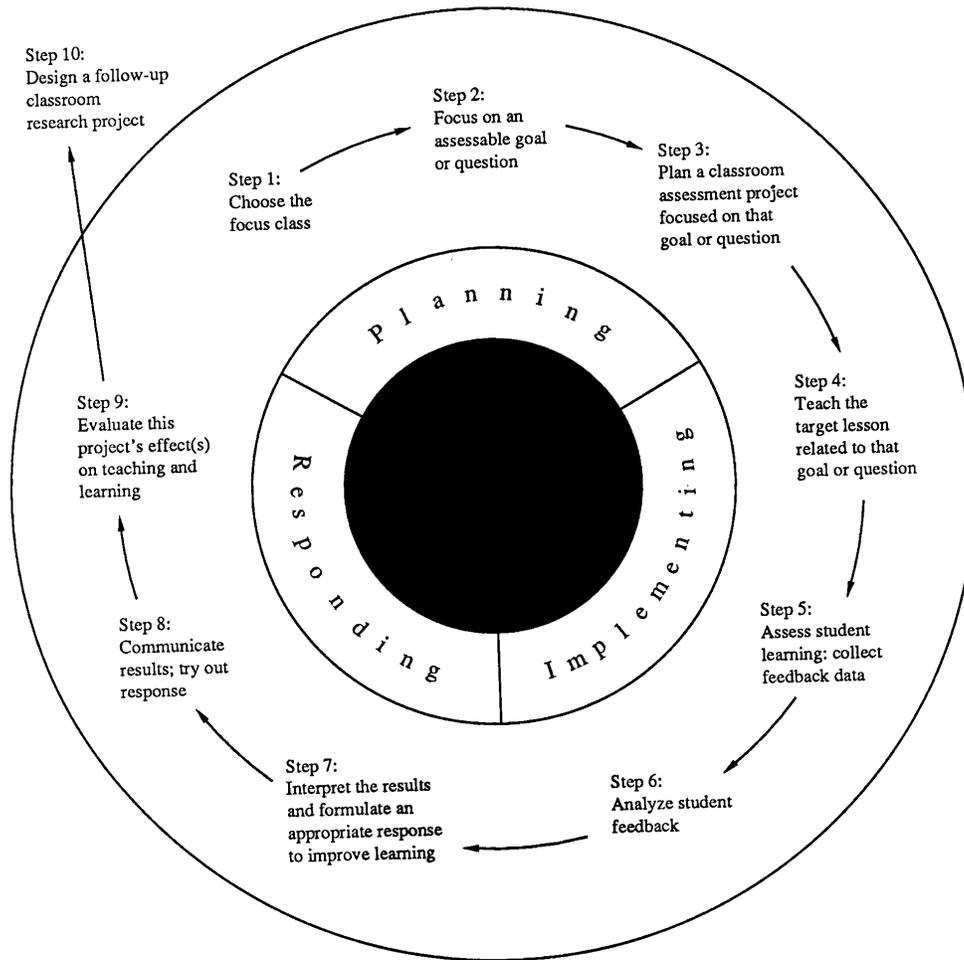
**MESALANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
ASSESSMENT MATRIX  
2009-2010**

NATURE OF ASSESSMENT MEASURE	LEVEL OF ASSESSMENT	TIMING OF ASSESSMENT RELATIVE TO STUDENTS' ACADEMIC PROGRESS					
		PRIOR TO REGISTRATION	WITHIN COURSE/ SEMESTER	END OF PROGRAM	AFTER GRADUATION	PERIODICALLY	
<b>DIRECT MEASURES OF STUDENT LEARNING</b>	Institutional Level	COMPASS		CAAP			
		TABE					
	Program Level			Capstone Courses			
				Industry Standard exams (State Boards, AFA)			
				Measurable Program Objectives			
				Test of Critical Thinking			
				Course Sequence Analysis			
	Classroom Level		CATs				
			Measurable course objectives				
			Pre-Test/Post-Test				
			TABE				
			Capstone projects				
	<b>INDIRECT MEASURES OF STUDENT LEARNING</b>	Institutional Level		Withdrawing/Non-returning Student Survey		Alumni Survey	Student Opinion Survey
		Program Level					Academic Program Review

# THE NEVER-ENDING STORY: ONGOING ASSESSMENT AT MESALANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Assessment is not a terminal endeavor. The Plan→Do→Study→Adjust cycle of assessment is a continuous process. Therefore, after implementation of each annual revision of the *Student Learning Assessment Model*, there will be follow-up as to the success and relative usefulness of the implemented changes by “closing the loop.”

## CLASSROOM AND PROGRAM ASSESSMENT Assessment Cycle



(From Angelo and Cross, 1993)

We believe that the *Student Learning Assessment Model* will require evaluation on an ongoing basis. There is no universal template for the assessment of student academic achievement. Each institution must create its own assessment process that must evolve with the needs and expectations of that institution. Assessment is an ongoing journey as we adapt, improve, and strive to create a learner-centered institution.

# APPENDICES



## **APPENDIX A**

### **GENERAL EDUCATION RUBRICS**



## COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY

### General Education Objective No. 1 – Present ideas orally according to standard usage

Levels of Achievement						
Criteria	Excellent 5	Proficient 4	Acceptable 3	Inadequate 2	Unacceptable 1	Student Score
<b>Provides an appropriate introduction and conclusion</b>	Speech is well organized with a thorough introduction and conclusion.	Speech is organized with a good introduction and conclusion.	Speech is inadequately organized with a weak introduction or conclusion.	Speech is unorganized with an inadequate introduction or conclusion.	Speech is incomplete or was not attempted.	
<b>Provides main points that are documented, developed clear, and focused</b>	Main points of the speech thoroughly explain the topic and are well documented, developed, clear, and focused.	Main points of the speech are accurately documented, developed, clear, and focused.	Main points of the speech are adequately documented, developed, clear, and focused.	Main points and documentation are absent or not appropriate.	Speech is undocumented, incomplete, or was not attempted.	
<b>Provides appropriate handouts and audio-visual aids</b>	Speaker provides audience with useful, grammatically correct handouts and uses audio or visual aids well.	Speaker provides audience with useful handouts and uses audio or visual aids well.	Speaker provides audience with adequate handouts and uses audio visual aids well.	Speaker provides no handouts or uses no audio or visual aids.	Speech does not incorporate handouts or audio-visual aids.	
<b>Uses appropriate gestures, movement, and eye contact</b>	Speaker uses excellent eye contact and gestures.	Speaker uses good eye contact and gestures to appear fairly poised and professional.	Speaker uses adequate eye contact and/or gestures and is adequately poised or professional.	Eye contact is absent and gestures are either distracting or absent.	Speech is incomplete or was not attempted.	
<b>Speaks clearly and understandably using standard, edited English</b>	Speaker uses very clear and understandable speech and speaks in standard, edited English.	Speaker uses understandable speech and speaks in standard, edited English.	Speaker is not adequately clear or understandable and does not speak in standard, edited English.	Speaker is not clear or uses understandable speech and does not speak in standard, edited English.	Speech is incomplete or was not attempted.	



## COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY

### General Education Objective No. 2 – Present ideas in **Writing**

Levels of Achievement						
Criteria	Excellent 5	Proficient 4	Acceptable 3	Inadequate 2	Unacceptable 1	Student Score
<b>Provides content that is clearly focused and supported by the writer's understanding of the topic</b>	Writing has clear, focused, and well developed content that is supported by the writer's thorough understanding of the topic.	Writing has an appropriate focus and demonstrates an understanding of the topic, but all supportive statements are not well developed.	Writing focus is adequate and supporting statements are relevant to the thesis and/or content.	Writing presents no clear thesis or main idea.	Writing is incomplete or was not attempted.	
<b>Uses appropriate grammar, syntax, usage, punctuation, and spelling</b>	Writing is free from errors* in all categories (grammatical usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling) and sentence structure and vocabulary are well developed and varied.	Writing has errors in no more than one category, but sentences and vocabulary are well developed.	Writing has errors in no more than two categories.	Writing has numerous errors in all or most categories.	Writing is incomplete or was not attempted.	
<b>Logically organizes and develops ideas in writing</b>	Writing is well-organized with clear and smooth transitions from the introduction to developed body paragraphs and conclusion.	Writing is appropriately organized with clear paragraphing and generally clear transitions.	Writing is adequately organized with paragraphing and transitions.	Writing lacks paragraphing and transitions.	Writing is incomplete or was not attempted.	

\*Errors include sentence limits (run-ons, comma splices, and fragments), gross subject/verb errors, capitalization errors, misspelled words, syntax errors, etc.



## COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY

### General Education Objective No. 3 – Demonstrates application of **Information Technology**

Levels of Achievement						
Criteria	Excellent 5	Proficient 4	Acceptable 3	Inadequate 2	Unacceptable 1	Student Score
<b>Demonstrates basic computer and operating system skills</b>	Student can accurately and consistently operate a computer and use Windows operating system with no assistance.	Student can accurately operate a computer and use Windows operating system with no assistance and few errors.	Student can usually operate a computer (turn on/log on and use mouse/ keyboard and use Windows operating system (Windows Explorer and locating files or applications) with little assistance and makes few errors.	Student has difficulty operating a computer and Windows operating system with little assistance and makes several errors.	Student is unable to operate a computer and Windows operating system.	
<b>Performs core application tasks within computer software packages, such as Word, Power-Point, and Excel</b>	Student can accurately and consistently access, create, modify, and save files using basic software application packages with no assistance.	Student can accurately access, create, modify and save files using basic software application packages with no assistance and few errors.	Student can usually access, create, modify and save files using basic software application packages with little assistance and few errors.	Student has difficult accessing, creating, modifying and saving files using basic software application packages without assistance and makes several errors.	Student is unable to access, create, modify and save files using basic software applications.	
<b>Uses a search engine to access, navigate, and evaluate information on the Internet</b>	Student can accurately and consistently access, navigate and evaluate information on the Internet with no assistance.	Student can accurately access, navigate and evaluate information on the Internet with no assistance and a few errors.	Student can usually access, navigate or evaluate information on the Internet with little assistance and makes a few errors.	Student has difficulty accessing, navigating or evaluating information on the Internet without assistance and makes several errors.	Student is unable to access, navigate or evaluate information on the Internet.	



## REASON SCIENTIFICALLY AND QUANTITATIVELY

### General Education Objective No. 4 – Demonstrate **Mathematical Principles**

Levels of Achievement						
Criteria	Excellent 5	Proficient 4	Acceptable 3	Inadequate 2	Unacceptable 1	Student Score
<b>Recognize and provide definitions for the vocabulary of mathematical principles associated with number systems, linear equations and polynomials.</b>	Successfully provide definitions for more than 90% of the relevant problems.	Successfully provide definitions for more than 80% of the relevant problems.	Successfully provide definitions for more than 70% of the relevant problems.	Successfully provide definitions for more than 60% of the relevant problems.	Successfully provide definitions for less than 60% of the relevant problems.	
<b>Obtain and describe results to linear equations in one variable using the addition and multiplication principles which could include ascribing correct units and measures to results as well as writing an appropriate sentence interpreting the result.</b>	Successfully solve more than 90% of the relevant problems.	Successfully solve more than 80% of the relevant problems.	Successfully solve more than 70% of the relevant problems.	Successfully solve more than 60% of the relevant problems.	Successfully solve less than 60% of the relevant problems.	
<b>Select or develop representations appropriate to linear equations in two variables and/or make inferences from such equations by;</b> <b>a. selecting or setting up an equation and/or</b> <b>b. arranging the data into a table and/or</b> <b>c. creating a graph with or without technological assistance and/or</b> <b>d. describing a trend indicated in an equation, a chart or a graph, and making predictions based on that trend</b>	Successfully select or develop representations or make inferences for more than 90% of the relevant problems.	Successfully select or develop representations or make inferences for more than 80% of the relevant problems.	Successfully select or develop representations or make inferences for more than 70% of the relevant problems.	Successfully select or develop representations or make inferences for more than 60% of the relevant problems.	Successfully select or develop representations or make inferences for less than 60% of the relevant problems.	
<b>Perform arithmetic operations on, and factor various types of polynomial expressions. Solve 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> degree polynomial equations using the zero product principle.</b>	Successfully solve more than 90% of the relevant problems.	Successfully solve more than 80% of the relevant problems.	Successfully solve more than 70% of the relevant problems.	Successfully solve more than 60% of the relevant problems.	Successfully solve less than 60% of the relevant problems.	



## REASON SCIENTIFICALLY AND QUANTITATIVELY

### General Education Objective No. 5 – Demonstrate **Scientific Reasoning**

Levels of Achievement						
Criteria	Excellent 5	Proficient 4	Acceptable 3	Inadequate 2	Unacceptable 1	Student Score
<b>Separation of observations (data) and interpretations</b>	Distinguishes explicitly between observations and interpretations and presents each separately.	Distinguishes consistently between observations and interpretations, and presents each separately.	Distinguishes in most cases between observations and interpretations, and with some exceptions presents each separately.	Does rarely distinguish between observations and interpretations and presents them mixed together.	Presents little or no observations and interpretations.	
<b>Reasoning supported by using a variety of evidence</b>	Reasoning clearly supported using a multitude of facts, figures, and documented data.	Reasoning supported using a variety of facts, figures, and documented data.	Reasoning reasonably well supported using some facts, figures, or documented data.	Reasoning poorly supported using few facts, figures, or documented data.	Reasoning absent or unsupported by any documented facts or figures.	
<b>Interpretation and analysis of results</b>	Presents critical evaluation of results, including alternative explanations of results.	Presents well-conducted interpretation and analysis of results; may consider alternative explanations of results.	Presents reasonable interpretation and analysis of results.	Presents data analysis with minimal discussion or interpretation of results.	Presents results without interpretation, or does not state results.	
<b>Distinguishes well supported from poorly supported scientific claims</b>	Distinguishes consistently between well and poorly supported claims, justified by detailed discussion and well-formulated reasoning.	Distinguishes consistently between well and poorly supported claims and presents valid reasoning.	Shows ability to distinguish between well and poorly supported claims and attempts to present reasoning.	Shows some ability to distinguish between well and poorly supported claims, but present little or no valid reasoning.	Consistently fails to distinguish between well and poorly supported claims.	



## REASON SCIENTIFICALLY AND QUANTITATIVELY

### General Education Objective No. 6 – Apply **Scientific Methods** to the Inquiry Process

Levels of Achievement						
Criteria	Excellent 5	Proficient 4	Acceptable 3	Inadequate 2	Unacceptable 1	Student Score
<b>Problem is recognized and investigative question is formulated</b>	Problem is recognized and essentials explained, investigative question is clearly formulated.	Problem is recognized, investigative question is formulated.	Problem is recognized, investigative question is outlined.	Parts of problem is recognized, investigative question is unclear or incomplete.	Problem is not recognized and/or investigative question misses the point or is not formulated.	
<b>Reasonable, testable hypothesis is presented</b>	Hypothesis is reasonable, clearly stated, and fully explains question.	Hypothesis is reasonable and answers question.	Hypothesis is reasonable, and addresses question.	Hypothesis does not answer question or is untestable.	No hypothesis is presented.	
<b>Prediction is formulated as logical consequence of the hypothesis</b>	Prediction is logical and fully explained.	Prediction is logical and well formulated.	Prediction is logical and reasonably outlined.	Prediction is unclear or illogical.	No prediction is formulated.	
<b>Formulation of a conclusion</b>	Conclusion is logical and well formulated, explains in details the degree of correctness of the hypothesis, clearly presents further avenues of testing or formulates new hypothesis	Conclusion is logical, explains the degree of correctness of the hypothesis, suggests further avenues of testing.	Conclusion is coherent, and addresses the degree of correctness of the hypothesis.	Conclusion is incoherent, and/or does not explain the degree of correctness of the hypothesis.	Conclusion not presented or is highly incoherent.	



## CRITICAL THINKING

### General Education Objective No. 7 – **Read and Analyze** Complex Ideas

Levels of Achievement						
Criteria	Excellent 5	Proficient 4	Acceptable 3	Inadequate 2	Unacceptable 1	Student Score
<b>Analyzes and questions data validity</b>	Analyzes insightful questions	Asks insightful questions	Asks a variety of questions	Asks some questions	Fails to question data	
<b>Does not allow bias to affect results</b>	Refutes bias	Detects bias	Recognizes bias	Observes some bias	Ignores bias	
<b>Interpretation and analysis of results</b>	Examines inconsistencies	Identifies inconsistencies	Recognizes inconsistencies	States some inconsistencies	Detects no inconsistencies	
<b>Distinguishes well supported from poorly supported scientific claims</b>	Carefully examines and categorizes information for value	Examines information for value	Categorizes information types	Does not select valuable information sources	Does not provide sources	



## CRITICAL THINKING

### General Education Objective No. 8 – **Locate, Evaluate, and Apply Research Information**

Levels of Achievement						
Criteria	Excellent 5	Proficient 4	Acceptable 3	Inadequate 2	Unacceptable 1	Student Score
<b>Develops and evaluates conclusions from research</b>	Formulates conclusions	Examines conclusions	Recognizes conclusions	Identifies some conclusions	Fails to draw conclusions	
<b>Develops and evaluates logical arguments within research</b>	Analyzes arguments	Categorizes arguments	Recognizes some arguments	Excludes some arguments	Sees no arguments	
<b>Comprehends and applies research data</b>	Synthesizes data	Carefully examines data	Evaluates data	Paraphrases data	Repeats data	
<b>Locates and applies research</b>	Provides substantial research	Includes abundant research	Includes adequate research	Includes little research	Omits research	



## CRITICAL THINKING

### General Education Objective No. 9 – Evaluate and Present Well-Reasoned Arguments

Levels of Achievement						
Criteria	Excellent 5	Proficient 4	Acceptable 3	Inadequate 2	Unacceptable 1	Student Score
<b>Provides strong arguments</b>	Argues succinctly	Argues clearly	Provides reasonable arguments	Misconstructs arguments	Omits arguments	
<b>Identifies and presents issues</b>	Thoroughly discusses issues	Categorizes issues	Identifies issues	Generates issues	Misrepresents issues	
<b>Conclusions justified by arguments</b>	Thoroughly justifies conclusions	Clearly justifies conclusions	Adequately justifies conclusions	Inadequately justifies conclusion	Provides no justification for conclusions	
<b>Evaluates and utilizes information</b>	Synthesizes information	Evaluates information	Incorporates information	Overlooks some information	Excludes information	



## **APPENDIX B**

# **STUDENT LEARNING ASSESSMENT STANDARDIZED REPORT**



## STUDENT LEARNING ASSESSMENT STANDARDIZED REPORT

Program Title \_\_\_\_\_

Reporting Period Semester: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

*Short description of program very similar to that published in the catalog. May include mission and vision of program.*

### Program Objectives/Competencies:

Upon completion of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Certificate/Associate name as it appears in catalog) Program:

1. The student will be able to...
2. The student will be able to...
3. The student will be able to...
4. The student will be able to...
5. The student will be able to...

### General Education Competencies:

Upon completion of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Certificate/Associate name as it appears in catalog) Program:

1. Students will read, write, listen and use verbal skills to organize and communicate information and ideas in personal and group settings (Communication).
2. Students will demonstrate mathematical principles and scientific reasoning by applying appropriate methods to the inquiry process (Quantitative and Scientific Reasoning).
3. Students will identify, evaluate and analyze evidence to guide decision making and communicate his/her beliefs clearly and accurately (Critical Thinking).

### Overview:

*Short overview statement of assessment efforts specific to the program. An example could be as follows:*

The (program name) assessment plan is in its \_\_\_\_\_ year and is addressed via the Plan→Do→Study→Adjust Cycle that begins every fall term and follows one (program name) cohort from first term through graduation.



**Program Objectives Assessment Plan:**

*Answers the who, what, where, when, how and to what extent as it relates to the implementation of the program objective-related assessment plan. A table format presentation (referred to as Curriculum Mapping) is suggested in that it can capture the “big picture” of the assessment plan and may look as follows:*

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE	MEASUREMENT TOOLS	COURSES IN WHICH PROGRAM OBJECTIVES ARE PRESENTED AND/OR MEASURED.
Program objective #1 written out.	Bulleted list of specific measurement tools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written Exam</li> <li>• Practical Exam</li> <li>• Business Plan</li> </ul> Remember, you should have at least 3 separate measures to evaluate whether or not the program objective has been accomplished (referred to at “triangulation”).	Bulleted list of those courses that the measurement tools listed in the middle column are presented and/or measured: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DMT 151</li> <li>• DMT 164</li> <li>• DMT 274</li> </ul>
Program objective #2 written out.		
Program objective #3 written out.		
Program objective #4 written out.		
Program objective #5 written out.		

**Program Objective Results:**

*This section presents the raw data results of all those measurement tools identified above (in the second column). Again, it is suggested that this data be presented in table format. Each measurement tool result should have a very short introductory section. **Following are examples that you may want to consider:***

**Measurement Tool:** Written Exam\*  
**Program Objective(s):** 1, 3, and 4  
**Goal Results:** 70% pass rate/75% cut score

Reporting Period	# of students attempting	# passing	% passing
2008-2009	9	6	67% (Mean=78%)
2007-2008	5	4	80% (Mean=82%)
2006-2007	7	5	71% (Mean=80%)

\*Written exam is based on the [Diesel Mechanics Association (2005)] identified knowledge, skills and behaviors.



**Measurement Tool:** Practical Exam  
**Program Objective(s):** 2, 3, and 5  
**Goal Results:** 90% pass rate/80% cut score

Reporting Period	# of students attempting	# passing	% passing
2008-2009 • Electrical • Hydraulics • Heating and Air Conditioning	5 5 5	3 5 5	60% (Mean=67%) 100%(Mean=77%) 100%(Mean=89%)
2007-2008 • Electrical • Hydraulics • Heating and Air Conditioning	8 8 8	5 7 8	71%(Mean=69%) 88%(Mean=86%) 100%(Mean=87%)
2006-2007	DATA NOT AVAILABLE		

**Measurement Tool:** Business Plan  
**Program Objective(s):** 4 and 5  
**Goal Results:** 90% “Average” or “Above Average”\*\*

Reporting Period (n)	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Poor
2008-2009 (n=6)	2 (33%)	3 (50%)	0	1 (16%)
2007-2008 (n=7)	2 (28%)	3 (43%)	2 (28%)	1(14%)

\*\*Descriptive categories based on evaluation rubric.

**General Education Competencies:**

Upon completion of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Certificate/Associate name as it appears in catalog) Program:

1. Communication: Students will read, write, listen and use verbal skills to organize and communicate information and ideas in personal and group settings.
2. Quantitative and Scientific Reasoning: Students will demonstrate mathematical principles and scientific reasoning by applying appropriate methods to the inquiry process.
3. Critical Thinking: Students will identify, evaluate and analyze evidence to guide decision making and communicate his/her beliefs clearly and accurately.

**General Education Competencies Assessment Plan:**

*Answers the who, what, where, when, how, and to what extent as it relates to the implementation of the general education competencies-related assessment plan. In other words, you need to repeat what you did for your program objectives for the general education competencies. A table format presentation (a.k.a. curriculum mapping) is again suggested in that it can capture the “big picture” of the assessment plan and may look as follows:*



GENERAL EDUCATION COMPETENCIES	MEASUREMENT TOOLS	COURSES IN WHICH PROGRAM OBJECTIVES ARE PRESENTED AND/OR MEASURED.
Communication	College Rubric Program-Specific Rubric GEA	
Quantitative and Scientific Reasoning	College Rubric Program-Specific Rubric GEA	
Critical Thinking	College Rubric Program-Specific Rubric GEA	

### General Education Competencies Results:

This section presents the rubric general education competencies results of all those measurement tools identified above (in the second column). Again, it is suggested that this data be presented in table format. Multiple measures are still required to adequately measure whether or not the general education competencies have been met. The same Mesalands Community College-created rubric can be used as the measurement tool each time the specific competency is evaluated (or you can modify the existing College rubric for your program as well as use the result from the GEA) (remember **triangulation**).

*Each measurement tool result should have a very short introductory section. The following is an example that you may want to consider:*

**General Education Competency:** Communication  
**Measurement Tool:** College Rubric  
**Goal Results:** 90% "Proficient" or "Excellent"

General Education Competency	5 Excellent	4 Proficient	3 Acceptable	2 Inadequate	1 Unacceptable
<b>Present ideas orally according to standard usage.</b>					
Provides an appropriate introduction and conclusion					
Provides main points that are documented, developed, clear and focused					
Provides appropriate handouts and audio-visual aids					
Speaks clearly and understandably using standard, edited English					



<b>Presents ideas in writing.</b>					
Provides content that is clearly focused and supported by the writer's understanding of the topic					
Uses appropriate grammar, syntax, usage, punctuation, and spelling					
Logically organizes and develops ideas in writing					
<b>Demonstrates application of information technology.</b>					
Demonstrates basic computer and operating system skills					
Performs core application tasks within computer software packages, such as Word, Power-Point, and Excel					
Uses a search engine to access, navigate, and evaluate information on the Internet					

**General Education Competency:**  
**Measurement Tool:**  
**Goal Results:**

Quantitative and Scientific Reasoning  
Program Specific Rubric  
70% "Proficient" or "Excellent"

<b>General Education Competency</b>	<b>5 Excellent</b>	<b>4 Proficient</b>	<b>3 Acceptable</b>	<b>2 Inadequate</b>	<b>1 Unacceptable</b>
<b>Demonstrates mathematical principles.</b>					
Identify relevant data by: a. extracting appropriate data from a problem containing extraneous data and/or b. identifying appropriate data in a word problem					



<p>Select or develop representations appropriate to the problem which describe the data by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. arranging the data into a table or spreadsheet and/or</li> <li>b. creating pictorial representations (bar graphs, pie charts, or rectangular coordinate graphs, etc.) with or without technological assistance, and/or</li> <li>c. selecting or setting up an equation</li> </ul>					
<p>Obtain and describe results by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. obtaining correct mathematical results, with or without technological assistance, and</li> <li>b. ascribing correct units and measures to results which could include writing an appropriate sentence interpreting the result</li> </ul>					
<p>Draw inferences from data by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. describing a trend indicated in a chart or graph, and making predictions based on that trend, and/or</li> <li>b. describing the important features of data presented in a table or spreadsheet, and making predictions based on that trend, and/or</li> <li>c. describing the important features of an equation or formula, and making predictions based on those features, and/or</li> <li>d. drawing qualitative conclusions about the original situation based on the quantitative results that were obtained</li> </ul>					



<b>Demonstrates scientific reasoning.</b>					
Separation of observations (data) and interpretations					
Reasoning supported by using a variety of evidence					
Interpretation and analysis of results					
Distinguishes well supported from poorly supported scientific claims					
<b>Apply scientific methods to the inquiry process.</b>					
Problem is recognized and investigative question is formulated					
Reasonable, testable hypothesis is presented					
Prediction is formulated as logical consequence of the hypothesis					
Formulation of a conclusion					

**General Education Competency:**

Critical Thinking

**Measurement Tool:**

GEA

**Goal Results:**

80% "Proficient" or "Excellent"

<b>General Education Competency</b>	<b>5 Excellent</b>	<b>4 Proficient</b>	<b>3 Acceptable</b>	<b>2 Inadequate</b>	<b>1 Unacceptable</b>
<b>Read and analyze complex ideas.</b>					
Analyzes and questions data validity					
Does not allow bias to affect results					
Interpretation and analysis of results					
Distinguishes well supported from poorly supported scientific claims					
<b>Locate, evaluate and apply research information.</b>					
Develops and evaluates conclusions from research					
Develops and evaluates logical arguments within research					
Comprehends and applies research data					
Locates and applies research					



Evaluate and present well-reasoned arguments.					
Provides strong arguments					
Identifies and presents issues					
Conclusions justified by arguments					
Evaluates and utilizes information					

### PDSA CYCLE RESULTS (2007-2008)

*Based on previous year. The following analyses are of both program objectives and general education competencies.*

#### Analysis

**Problem Area:** Using hard data, this is where the lead instructor/program director identifies where a particular general education, program, or course objective was not successfully accomplished.

**Goal:** Specifically identify quantitatively the goal improvement over the course of the next PDSA cycle.

**Action Plan:** Indicate what specific changes will be made in the classroom to address the identified problem area and accomplish the stated goal.

**Results:** State how successful the implementation of the action plan was at addressing the problem area and accomplishing the stated goal.

### PDSA CYCLE GOALS (2008-2009)

*Based on this year*

#### Analysis

**Problem Area:** Using hard data, this is where the lead instructor/program director identifies where a particular general education, program, or course objective was not successfully accomplished.

**Goal:** Specifically identify quantitatively the goal improvement over the course of the next PDSA cycle.

**Action Plan:** Indicate what specific changes will be made in the classroom to address the identified problem area and accomplish the stated goal.

**Results:** This area would be left blank since the action plan identified above will be implemented during the future semester(s).

#### Program Objective/Competency Rubrics:

**General Education Competency Rubrics:** (if modified from MCC created rubric)



## **APPENDIX C**

### **FACULTY OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT FORM**





Mesalands Community College

Faculty Outcomes

Assessment Report

**Course Information**

Instructor Name	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Semester	<input type="text"/>	Year	<input type="text"/>	Date Submitted	<input type="text"/>	
Dept	<input type="text"/>	Number	<input type="text"/>	Section	<input type="text"/>	Credits	<input type="text"/>	Course Description	<input type="text"/>

---

**Feedback from Previous Offerings**

If you have taught this course previously, what changes did you make, if any, this semester as a result of feedback or if someone else has taught this course before how did you adjust your curriculum based on the feedback results that they received?

Classify any changes you made *due to previous feedback* in the following categories:

Content: <u>Select...</u>	Methodology: <u>Select...</u>	Exams: <u>Select...</u>
Environment: <u>Select...</u>	Technology: <u>Select...</u>	Assessment: <u>Select...</u>
Other: <input type="text"/>		

---

**Classroom Assessment Techniques (CATs)**

What CATs were used this semester? how often?

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
----------------------	----------------------

What significant results did you have from CATs?



Please describe any changes made this semester and/or anticipate making the next time this course is offered due to CATs:

Classify any changes you made *this semester due to CATs* in the following categories:

Content:

Select...

Methodology:

Select...

Exams:

Select...

Environment:

Select...

Technology:

Select...

Assessment:

Select...

Other:

---

### Measurable Course Objectives (MCO's)

MCO Number:

Measurable course objective from the syllabus:

How was this MCO assessed?

What results did you get and how do they compare with the course objective?

Please describe any changes made this semester and/or that you anticipate making the next time this course is offered due to this MCO:

Classify any changes you made *due to MCO's* in the following categories:



Content:  
Select...

Methodology:  
Select...

Exams:  
Select...

Environment:  
Select...

Technology:  
Select...

Assessment:  
Select...

Other:

---

### Pre-Test/Post-Test Analysis

Please describe any changes you implemented this semester based on your analysis of the pre-test:

Provide a quantitative analysis of the results of your pre-test and post-test scores:

# of Students:  Pre-Test Ave:  Post-Test Ave:

Please provide some comments about your results:

Classify any changes you made *due to the pre-test* results in the following categories:

Content:  
Select...

Methodology:  
Select...

Exams:  
Select...

Environment:  
Select...

Technology:  
Select...

Assessment:  
Select...

Other:

Please describe, if any, the changes you anticipate implementing the next time you teach this course as a result of your pre-test and/or post-test score analysis:

---

### Other Changes

If you have any changes to your course to report for some other reason, select them here:

Content:  
Select...

Methodology:  
Select...

Exams:  
Select...

Environment:

Technology:

Assessment:



Select...

Select...

Select...

Other:

Please provide some comments for your reasons for making these changes:



## **APPENDIX D**

### **Student Learning Assessment Evaluation Rubric**



## Mesalands Community College Student Learning Assessment Evaluation Rubric

<b>Evaluation Criteria</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Measures Program Objectives</b>	No program objectives measured.	1 or 2 program objectives measured.	3 program objectives measured.	4 program objectives measured.	All 5 program objectives measured.
<b>Measures General Education Competency: Communication</b>	No communication competencies measured.	1 to 4 of the communication criteria measured.	5 to 6 of the communication criteria measured.	7 to 9 of the communication criteria measured.	All 10 of the communication criteria measured.
<b>Measures General Education Competency: Quantitative and Scientific Reasoning</b>	No quantitative or scientific reasoning competencies measured.	1 to 5 of the quantitative and/or scientific reasoning criteria measured.	6 to 7 of the quantitative and/or scientific reasoning criteria measured.	8 to 11 of the quantitative and/or scientific reasoning criteria measured.	All 12 of the quantitative or scientific reasoning criteria measured.
<b>Measures General Education Competency: Critical Thinking</b>	No critical thinking competencies measured.	1 to 5 of the critical thinking criteria measured.	6 to 7 of the critical thinking criteria measured.	8 to 11 of the critical thinking criteria measured.	All 12 of the critical thinking criteria measured.
<b>Uses Multiple Measures</b>	No measures.	One measure.	Two measures.	Three measures.	More than 3 measures.
<b>Uses Both Internal and External Sources</b>	No data.		Uses either internal data or external data.		Uses both internal and external data.
<b>Has Complete Data Summary</b>	No data summary.	Tells what and when.	Tells who, what and when.	Tells how, who, what and when.	Tells how, who, what, when and why.
<b>Changes to Curriculum Based on Data (Closes the Loop)</b>	No changes made.	Changes made without data.	Changes made based on anecdotal data.	Changes made based on empirical data.	Changes made based on empirical data with follow-up plans to measure effects.

1 = Poor

5 = Excellent



## **APPENDIX E**

### **HISTORY OF DATA DISSEMINATION AND FEEDBACK LOOPS**



## EVOLUTION OF *DATA DISSEMINATION AND FEEDBACK LOOPS* AT MESALANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE 1995-2004

Best practices in assessment shared with faculty								
CAAP Test results distributed to student participants								
Student Guide to Educational Assessment given to all new students								
Presentation on assessment at every new student orientation								
Assessment Day in spring semester								
Student Handbook contains explanation of assessment								
Awards given to outstanding faculty for assessment and names presented to Board of Trustees								
College catalog contains clear statement of College's commitment to assessment								
Faculty Handbook contains clear statement of College's commitment to assessment and details of faculty's role								
Annual assessment reports presented to the Board of Trustees								
<i>Faculty Assessment Notes</i> distributed to all adjunct and full-time faculty every semester								
Annual reports on assessment distributed to faculty and administration								
Student Learning Assessment Committee (formerly Educational Outcomes/Assessment Committee) has joint meetings with Faculty Council every semester								
Assessment Reserve Collection in Library contains reference materials								
Semester reports published by Student Learning Assessment Committee (formerly Educational Outcomes/Assessment Committee) and distributed to faculty and administration								
<i>Educational Outcomes Assessment News: a Faculty Initiative</i> produced every semester and distributed to College community								
No coordinated Assessment	Phase-in of data dissemination and feedback mechanisms		Comprehensive plan of data dissemination and feedback					
1995-1996	1996-1997	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004



**APPENDIX F**  
**TIMELINES FOR ASSESSMENT**



## Assessment Responsibilities of Individual Faculty for the 2009-2010 Academic Year

Date	Action
------	--------

### Fall 2009

First week of fall semester (Week 1)	Submit, if necessary, course syllabi for classes being taught during this semester with new or revised measurable course objectives to the Chair of the Student Learning Assessment Committee
Week 2	Suggested date to carry out pre-test in all classes
Week 5	Suggested date to carry out first CAT in every course
Week 8	Suggested date to carry out second CAT in every course
Week 12	Suggested date to carry out third CAT in every course
Week 15	Suggested date to carry out post-test in all classes
During Finals week (Week 16)	Submit report on semester's classroom assessment to the Student Learning Assessment Committee

### Spring 2010

First week of spring semester (Week 1)	Submit, if necessary, course syllabi for classes being taught during this semester with new or revised measurable course objectives to the Chair of the Student Learning Assessment Committee
Week 2	Suggested date to carry out pre-test in all classes
Week 5	Suggested date to carry out first CAT in every course
Week 8	Suggested date to carry out second CAT in every course
Week 12	Suggested date to carry out third CAT in every course
Week 15	Suggested date to carry out post-test in all classes
During Finals week (Week 16)	Submit report on semester's classroom assessment to the Student Learning Assessment Committee



**Summer 2010 Session I Courses (4 week session)**

First week of summer I session (Week 1)	Submit, if necessary, course syllabi for classes being taught during this semester with new or revised measurable course objectives to the Chair of the Student Learning Assessment Committee
Week 2	Suggested date to carry out pre-test in all classes
Week 2	Suggested date to carry out first CAT in every course
Week 3	Suggested date to carry out second CAT in every course
Week 4	Suggested date to carry out third CAT in every course
Week 4	Suggested date to carry out post-test in all classes
Week 4	Submit report on semester's classroom assessment to the Student Learning Assessment Committee

**Summer 2010 Session II Courses (8 week session)**

First week of summer II session (Week 1)	Submit, if necessary, course syllabi for classes being taught during this semester with new or revised measurable course objectives to the Chair of the Student Learning Assessment Committee
Week 2	Suggested date to carry out pre-test in all classes
Week 3	Suggested date to carry out first CAT in every course
Week 5	Suggested date to carry out second CAT in every course
Week 7	Suggested date to carry out third CAT in every course
Week 8	Suggested date to carry out post-test in all classes
Week 8	Submit report on semester's classroom assessment to the Student Learning Assessment Committee



**Summer 2010 Session III Courses (4 week session)**

First week of summer III session (Week 1)	Submit, if necessary, course syllabi for classes being taught during this semester with new or revised measurable course objectives to the Chair of the Student Learning Assessment Committee
Week 2	Suggested date to carry out pre-test in all classes
Week 2	Suggested date to carry out first CAT in every course
Week 3	Suggested date to carry out second CAT in every course
Week 4	Suggested date to carry out third CAT in every course
Week 4	Suggested date to carry out post-test in all classes
Week 4	Submit report on semester's classroom assessment to the Student Learning Assessment Committee

**Assessment Responsibilities of Lead Instructors  
in Arts and Sciences/Applied Sciences Programs  
for the 2009-2010 Academic Year\***

Date	Action
------	--------

**Fall 2009**

First week of fall semester (Week 1)	Submit, if necessary, course syllabi for classes being taught during this academic cycle with new or revised measurable course objectives to the Chair of the Student Learning Assessment Committee
Week 1-15	Collect formative assessment data.
Week 16	Collect summative assessment data.

**Spring 2010**

Week 1-15	Collect formative assessment data.
Week 7 of spring semester	Submit revisions of measurable program objectives, if necessary, to the Student Learning Assessment Committee
Week 16	Collect summative assessment data.



**Summer 2010**

Week 1-4/1-8	Collect formative assessment data.
Week 4/8	Collect summative assessment data.

\*Student Learning Assessment Program Reports for 2009-2010 academic cycle are due Nov. 1, 2010.



## **APPENDIX G**

### **HISTORY OF ASSESSMENT**



# EVOLUTION OF INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL ASSESSMENT AT MESALANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE 1995-2004

						Development of Institutional Assessment Priorities		New Set of Priorities, Goals, and Objectives
						Assessment Day in fall is added		
						CAAP is mandatory		
						Student learning explicitly emphasized in College Mission and Goals statement		
						College celebrates Assessment Day in spring semester		
						Institutional policy that assessment budgets increase 10% per annum		
						Assessment included as explicit part of Academic Program Review		
						Director of Institutional Development oversees assessment process		
						CAAP is institutional post-test		
						COMPASS is institutional pre-test		
						Student Learning Assessment Committee (originally Educational Outcomes/Assessment Committee) has line item budget		
						Compilation of data from ACT Student Opinion, Alumni and Withdrawing/Non-returning Student surveys for assessment purposes		
						Results of industry standard exams are compiled		
						Student Learning Assessment Committee (originally Educational Outcomes/Assessment Committee) oversees assessment as standing committee		
Evolution of Developmental Plan for Student Outcomes Assessment Model				Integrated Student Learning Assessment Model (originally Student Outcomes Assessment Model) is implemented and revised annually				
Limited use of indirect measures of learning and industry standards	Plan for integrated assessment	Phase-in of integrated assessment	Integrated assessment in place					
1995-1996	1996-1997	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004



## EVOLUTION OF *PROGRAM LEVEL ASSESSMENT* AT MESALANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE 1995-2004

Development of rubrics to assess general education								
Review of program objectives and tests for critical thinking								
Program Assessment Outcomes Form includes feedback from previous cycles of Assessment								
Measurable program objectives for AA degrees published in College catalog								
Test of critical thinking administered in 90% of programs								
Measurable program objectives assessed for 90% of programs								
Assessment included as explicit part of Academic Program Review								
Measurable program objectives printed in College catalog								
Test of critical thinking administered in 60% of programs								
Measurable program objectives assessed for 60% of programs								
Test of critical thinking developed for every program								
Measurable course objectives for every degree/diploma/certificate program								
Industry standards - limited use	Plan for integrated assessment	Integrated assessment in every program						
1995-1996	1996-1997	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004



## EVOLUTION OF CLASSROOM LEVEL ASSESSMENT AT MESALANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE 1995-2004

Centralization of course assessments for faculty access								
New form to report changes in learning								
Feedback from previous offerings is reported								
Adjunct and new faculty have assessment mentor								
Course objective assessment reported								
Internships assessed by employer's evaluation and pre/post test								
Distance learning assessed by pre/post test and three journal reports								
Pre-collegiate classes use TABE for pre/post test								
Adjunct faculty carry out classroom assessment at same level as full-time faculty								
Full-time faculty use one pre/post test		Full-time faculty use two pre/post tests		Full-time faculty use pre/post tests in every course				
Full-time faculty test CATs		Full-time faculty utilize three CATs in each course			Full-time faculty utilize one CAT per credit up to three			
Measurable course objectives in every College syllabus								
Limited use of informal CATs	Plans for integrated assessment in classroom	Phase-in of integrated assessment in all courses	Integrated assessment in every course					
1995-1996	1996-1997	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004



