

Accreditation: A quality control process in which institutions or programs engage in a rigorous review for the purpose of demonstrating compliance with a set of standards established by the accrediting organization.

Aggregate: Report of results as a summary statistic rather than individual case level. Examples include the Sum or Average.

Alignment: The process of strategically developing programs/services that reflect the stated goals of a department, division, and/or institution.

Analysis: The process by which collected data is transformed into information that can be shared and utilized.

Assessment: Any effort to gather, analyze, and interpret evidence that describes program, departmental, divisional, and/or institutional effectiveness for the purpose of improvement.

Assessment Cycle: The full sequence of assessment activities, including identifying outcomes, defining methods, planning assessment, gathering evidence, analyzing and interpreting evidence, sharing results, implementing change, and reporting.

Assessment Partners:

Assessment Team (A Team): A group of staff members from various Student Affairs departments who meet on a regular basis to discuss, plan, evaluate, and promote assessment efforts within the division.

Office of Strategic Planning, Assessment, & Analysis: Campus department that provides guidance to the division in the measurement of program effectiveness and learning beyond the classroom, in addition to helping to establish measures/outcomes to drive future progress.

Office of Institutional Effectiveness: Campus department that supports the quality enhancement and continuous improvement of KSU through accreditation, assessment, policy, and strategic initiatives. Improve KSU is the university-wide continuous improvement initiative that is spearheaded by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness.

Office of Institutional Research: Campus department that transforms institutional data into meaningful information that supports university planning, policy making, decision making, and assessment.

Campus Labs: A company that provides an integrated platform for many of the tools that we use for assessment within Student Affairs.

Baseline: An online tool for survey generation, including data analysis

Engage/Owl Life: Primarily used for tracking student attendance (programs, office visits, etc.) and for online form completion (applications, etc.).

Planning: Online platform used for Improve KSU and the Student Affairs annual report

Closing the Assessment Loop: The process of utilizing data for improvement or modification of a program, service, or department.

Coding: The process of translating raw data into meaningful categories for the purpose of data analysis (quantitative) or identifying recurring themes and ideas (qualitative).

Data: Information gathered for the purpose of research, assessment, or evaluation.

Effectiveness: How well an approach, a measure, or a process addresses its intended purpose.

Generalizable: Applicable to a larger population.

Improve KSU: The vehicle by which KSU demonstrates a commitment to continuous improvement.

Assessment Plan: A set of three measures, each with two outcomes, overseen by a department over a three-year period.

Improvement Report: The documented and analyzed results of the assessment plan, including suggestions for future assessment initiatives.

Institutional Review Board (IRB): Group that is responsible for reviewing and certifying studies involving human subjects, providing the policies and guidelines to protect subjects. Review by the IRB prior to beginning a study is required when wanting to share findings outside of one's own area.

Mean: The average number, calculated by summing all values and dividing by the number of values or observations.

Measure: Instrument, device, or method that provides data to indicate outcome attainment.

Direct Measure: Assesses performance/standards (pre/post test, participation #s, etc.)

Indirect Measure: Assesses perceptions, opinions, feelings (satisfaction surveys, evaluations, etc.)

Types of Measures:

Benchmarking: Performance data that are used for comparative purposes.

Department/Unit Data: Information gathered by an individual area on campus.

Document Analysis: Gathering of documents such as minutes from organizational or staff meetings, reports, photographs, student files, etc.

Evaluation: Data gathered for use in improvement or demonstrating effectiveness.

Exam/Quiz: A set of questions intentionally designed to measure learning.

Focus Group: Group discussion (typically 6 to 8 participants) that is designed intentionally to gain in-depth information and perspectives around a specific topic, led by a moderator with prepared questions.

Institutional Data: Information created, collected, or maintained by the University (student data, Human Resources data, faculty data, etc...).

Interview: One-on-one conversation intentionally designed to gain in-depth information and perspectives around a specific topic.

Observation: Use of senses (sight, hearing, etc.) to understand the setting, the participants, and/or their behavior.

Portfolio: A showcase of various assessment evidence gathered to demonstrate effectiveness.

Pre/Post Test: Administering the same assessment before and after a program, service, training, etc. to measure potential growth.

Rubric: An established set of criteria by which information is measured, categorized, or evaluated.

Survey/Questionnaire: Method of collecting information from people about their attitudes, behaviors, characteristics, or perceptions by using a specific set of questions.

Tracking: Collecting data over time to measure change or progress.

Median: The middle case in a rank-ordered set of values or observations.

Mode: The most frequently observed value in a data set.

Research: The collection of information for the purpose of learning, disseminating new knowledge, developing theory, or testing concepts and constructs.

Qualitative: Analysis used to tell a story or demonstrate key themes. Detailed descriptions of people, events, situations, interaction, and/or observed behaviors.

Quantitative: Data collection that assigns numbers to objects, events, or observations according to some rule. Generally analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics.

RPG:

Retention: Actions that contribute to first-time, full-time students maintaining enrollment at KSU.

Progression: Actions that contribute to a student advancing to the next classification, such as Sophomore to Junior.

Graduation: Actions that contribute to a student completing their program of study.

Rate: The percentage of students who are retained, who progress, or who graduate.

Sampling: The manner in which participants are selected.