

## 2023-2024 Annual Report on Assessment Activities

This report outlines assessment activity in the Division of Academic Affairs during academic year 2023-2024. The highlight of this year for Academic Assessment is the implementation of Watermark Planning & Self Study (P&SS) for use in Annual Assessment Reporting, Program Review, and External Accreditation. In addition to this, is the continued progress with the assessment of the General Education Curriculum. The Davis/AAC&U grant, which supports the assessment of AIA Integrative Learning as a part of the General Education Assessment initiatives has also been particularly impactful.

### **Academic Assessment**

This year's primary **professional development** offerings were focused on preparing departments to successfully use Watermark P&SS. This tool was implemented to streamline and broaden assessment work and enhance a culture of assessment on our campus. Twelve Departments attended presentations or training sessions on the various uses of this tool.

As the goal of the **AAC&U Integrative Learning Grant** was to develop assessment tools for the Gen Ed Outcome of AIA Integrative learning, professional development was offered on this topic. Most significant of the workshops and gatherings of the Integrative Learning cohort was the presentation by Jim Barber on the topic of his book *Facilitating the Integration of Learning: Five Research-Based Practices to Help College Students Connect Learning across Disciplines and Lived Experience (2020)*, which was well-attended by both integrative learning cohort members and other campus community members, including staff and administrators.

**Learning Outcomes Assessment** was emphasized during this academic year as evidenced by the professional development offerings on the use of **Watermark P&SS**. These trainings were designed to instruct stakeholders on how to create the reports on learning outcomes assessment which our Annual Reports document. Activities also included preparation of the Watermark environment for each program who participated in the pilot to ensure a seamless experience with the tool. We have had 13 programs successfully pilot the use of Watermark P&SS. Their willingness to use a new tool and provide feedback on their experiences is appreciated. It is expected that we will have 100% of undergraduate programs submit the Annual Assessment Report this year using either the P&SS or the traditional method.

**Cookies and Assessment** continued this year as a form of office hours for campus constituents to seek out consultation on assessment related topics. The main areas where support might be sought was on writing Annual Assessment Reports, Program Review, Survey Design and External Accreditation.

**General Education Assessment:** The second iteration of Assessment Day 2024 took place to assess the Fine Arts Expression & Analysis, Historical Inquiry & Analysis, Literary Inquiry & Analysis, Scientific Inquiry & Analysis artifacts against the rubrics created the previous year. In addition, via grant funding, AIA Integrative Learning rubric was created and assessed during Assessment Day 2024. During this academic year the Procedural & Logical Thinking and Quantitative Reasoning rubrics were created in preparation for Assessment in 2025.

Eight faculty served as assessors of 100 artifacts (this was a sample from approximately 325 artifacts submitted). Stipends for 7 out of 8 of the assessors were funded by the AAC&U Davis Grant. The final assessor was funded by FSU Academic Affairs. Artifacts were collected and scored and analysis of this process is currently in progress. A comprehensive survey was completed by assessors following the

assessment day to get extensive feedback on the rubrics used, artifacts submitted, process in place to conduct the assessment day, assessment of the General Education Curriculum.

A University Cohort utilized funds from a **Davis Grant sponsored by the AAC&U** to advance the assessment of Integrative Learning in the General Education Curriculum. As part of grant activities, a faculty-led cohort formed the previous year honed in on the goals of the grant. These being to document thinking on what AIA Integrative Learning on our campus means as well as to draft an assessment tool from which a successful pilot of the assessment of AIA Integrative learning took place.

**Program Review** in 2023-24 included the Early Education & Care (one of our non-licensure programs), English Studies, and Mathematics. English Studies & Mathematics developed comprehensive program review documents and had External Evaluator Site Visits and subsequent reports. Both these teams are on target to have action plans in place by late fall.

During the Academic Year 2023-24 the OIRP has assisted with several **Surveys**. This academic year has served as our first year utilizing **Qualtrics** with Select Survey going offline at the end of the last academic year. Survey creation, distribution, analysis and report creation tools were successfully piloted and used within Qualtrics. Y

The following surveys were conducted using Qualtrics tools described above: Alumni Survey 2023 (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>), Student Athlete Surveys (all sports all seasons), Campus Dining Survey, First Year Academic Writing Survey, Graduation Survey for Graduate Students, Appendix H (departmental advising) Questionnaire, UARC Survey.

In addition, analysis and reporting was done for the First Destination Survey 2022-23.

**University Assessment Research Committee (UARC)** conducted its annual peer review of assessment reports. During meetings **UARC** reviewed and/or contributed to the analysis of the campus climate survey, program review guidelines, the assessment of the general education curriculum.

During the previous year, a search for an Assessment Tool to meet the Universities program review, accreditation, and planning needs was undertaken. **Watermark Planning & Self Study (P&SS)** was a critical focus of the assessment work during 2023-24.

For more information about assessment visit the assessment website at <https://www.fitchburgstate.edu/about/institutional-research-and-planning/assessment>