AHEAD of the CURVE
Intersession Course: Assessment of Student Learning

June 5, 2014

Anne G. Wahl, Ed.D.
Assistant Provost for Assessment & Accreditation
Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Office
Academic Affairs
Workshop Outcome(s)

1. Clarify 2-3 course goals

2. Identify 2-3 student learning outcomes

3. Identify assessment methods and strategies (informal and formal) to measure student learning outcomes
Assessment Design Process

- Pre-course: Determine course goals (2-3)
- Pre-course: Identify corresponding student learning outcomes (2-3)
- Pre-course: Select and design assessment method(s)
- Course: Implement assessment method(s), collect and analyze data
- Post-course: Use data to guide course improvements
Establish Course Goals

• Describe broad learning intentions in terms of knowledge & skills (2-3 for 3 week course)
• State what you aim to achieve in the course
• Focus the design and structure of the course
• Guide development of specific and measurable student learning outcomes and assessment methods

Identify 3-5 constructs or skills are key to the course?
Link Student Learning Outcomes

**SLO’s**

- More specific
- Include observable, measurable verb (demonstrate, apply, utilize, contrast, synthesize, analyze)
- Focal point(s) of course design
- Analyze, Explore, Identify
Be Strategic and Selective: Assessment Methods

• Emphasize depth over breadth when designing assessments
• Build in opportunities for student feedback (informal, formal)
• Use effective assessment strategies - mix and blend
• Time is a factor – what can you grade promptly and return?
• Be selective and strategic – too many or too few assignments, etc.– find a balance
• Adapt instruction based on data from assessments
• Use technology to support the assessment of student learning
• Design and use rubrics to provide clarity about expectations and provide comprehensive feedback for students (grading time)
Goals, SLOs, and Methods

- **Identify** KEY constructs, knowledge, and skills
- **Write** crisp, core, concrete goals
- **Market** the goals in your course description
- **Develop** and link the observable and measurable (SLO’s)
- **Focus** on course level student learning outcomes
- **Share** the outcomes with your students
- **Design** and implement effective and authentic performance-based assessment (always linked to SLO’s)
- **Innovate**— vary methods
- **Motivate** learning – with authentic assessment
Further Resources . . .

www.rit.edu/outcomes

Questions?