

Use of Results

Closing the Loop

The phrase "closing the loop" is frequently used to refer to the process of using the data collected to evaluate and revise current processes and procedures in an effort to improve performance. Assessment Results should be discussed during program/department meetings and documented annually in the Use of Results section of the assessment plan.

Questions to Consider

- What is the data telling you about students, faculty, staff, programs, and departments?
- Was there a trend or surprise discovered in the Results?
- Did you identify strengths or weaknesses?
- What additional information or evidence is needed to understand how well students, programs, and departments are achieving goals?
- How will you use the information to improve performance?
- How can performance be improved if there are limited resources?
- How will you follow up to ensure that changes are successful?

Guidelines for Writing Use of Results

- Use of Results should be a **discussion** of the Results.
- Provide an interpretation of the Results and draw conclusions about the program/department's effectiveness in achieving the stated outcomes.
- Identify and discuss strengths and/or weaknesses found in the Results.
- For each Outcome assessed, add the actions your program/department is taking or will take in an effort to improve performance. **Examples include but are not limited to:**
 - revise outcome/assessment methods/criteria for success
 - revise classroom activities/assignments
 - create/revise data collection process
 - create/revise a policy or procedure
 - implement a program/service
- Indicate a timeline for implementation of changes.
- **DO NOT** state that you will "continue to monitor" and/or "make changes if needed". If this occurs, the assessment plan will be rejected and sent back for revision.
- **DO NOT** copy and paste Use of Results information from a previous year. Use of Results should **never** be identical to those entered for any previous year. If this occurs, the assessment plan will be rejected and sent back for revision.