University of Houston Clear Lake
Office of Institutional Effectiveness

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 improve performance. The data should be used to evaluate and/or revise things like curriculum, courses, program/department services and/or processes, and student, faculty, and staff activities in an effort to improve performance.

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?

Assessment Results should be discussed at program/department meetings and documented annually in the Use of Results section of the assessment plan. Use of Results should be a *discussion* of the Results.

Guidelines for Writing Use of Results

- Provide an interpretation of the Results and discuss the implications for the students/program/department.
- Identify strengths and/or weaknesses found in the Results.
- For each Student Learning and Program Outcome assessed, add the actions your program/department is taking or will take in an effort to improve performance.
- If the performance target was **not met**, describe what you plan to do in an effort to improve performance.
- If the performance target **was met** and no immediate actions are needed, you may state this and then describe any new initiatives that may be underway to further enhance Outcomes in this area.
- Indicate a timeline for implementation of changes.
- **DO NOT** state that you will "continue to monitor" and/or "make changes if needed". This will result in the assessment plan being rejected and sent back for revisions.
- **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. Each year is unique and must reflect the information obtained for the year being assessed.