



CITY COLLEGES of CHICAGO

Harold Washington

Education that Works

The Assessment Times For Students Fall 2014

From Chair Carrie Nepstad

What do you think of when you hear the word “assessment”?

What often comes to mind is standardized testing. However, at HWC, we think about assessment differently. We think of it as part of the teaching process. The instructors set learning goals for students, and then gather information in order to understand student learning and to see whether or not those learning goals are met.

All students completing a degree at our college should be able to demonstrate that they have met the learning outcomes for general education. This is why, each year, the Assessment Committee asks instructors to volunteer their classes to participate in an assessment on a particular focus. Last year, for example, we assessed oral communications. This year, we are in the process of assessing information literacy. Did you do the survey this semester? If so, thank you! Your contribution will help us to make good decisions about how we teach information literacy and how we support students as they build information literacy skills.

Assessment Updates

Information Literacy

We just finished an assessment of information literacy skills. We had 44 faculty members volunteer to send the survey link out to their students and over 700 students completed the assessment. Information literacy is one of the general education outcomes at HWC, which means that students should be able to “use information resources and technology competently.” The ACRL (Association of College and Research Libraries) defines information literacy as “the set of skills that enables individuals to recognize when information is needed and to locate, evaluate, and effectively use the needed information.” All data gathered from this survey will be anonymous and analyzed only in the aggregate.

We appreciate student participation in this process. The committee will be analyzing the data and will report its findings early next year. How do you think we did? We look forward to sharing the results with you.

Oral Communication

Oral communication skills are consistently listed as important twenty-first century skills in the workforce as well as in higher education. The opportunities for students at Harold Washington College to speak in class and give oral presentations are vast. This is

evidenced from the wide array of faculty volunteers who participated in the oral communications assessment last year. How do you feel about your speaking skills? Do you get nervous when you have to give a speech? If you do, you are not alone!

After reviewing the results from last year's oral communications assessment, the Assessment Committee recommended that faculty should make every effort to put students at ease before their oral presentations, and to help build confidence in speaking skills. What do you think? Would it help you to do a better job with your presentations if your instructor helped you to build specific skills, and to feel more comfortable? What would put you at ease? What kinds of supports would help you to be successful when you do presentations? Do you agree that this is an important skill to develop?

Questions, Comments, Suggestions?

If you have any ideas for us, please contact Assessment Committee Chair, Carrie Nepstad at cnepstad@ccc.edu. We would love to hear from you!

Public Speaking



Dilbert.com, February 26, 2014

About the Assessment Committee

The Assessment Committee is made up of faculty, administrators, and professional staff. We are always looking for more interested members, including students. If you have any questions about assessment of student learning at HWC, or about the Assessment Committee, please visit us here: <http://ccc.edu/hwcassessment>.



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