

# Assessment at HWC



Carrie Nepstad  
Assessment Committee Chair

# Why me?

- HWC Assessment Committee Chair
- Field of Human Development
- Interest in Adult Learning
- CCLT graduate

*Assessment is Fun!*



*No, really...*

# Healthy Skepticism

- **What is assessment?**
- **Who is making the rules?**
- **What about academic freedom?**
- **“I’ll do what I have to do on paper and what I want to do in the classroom.”**

# **Assessment from different perspectives**

- **Institutional Assessment**
- **Departmental Assessment**
- **Program Assessment**

# The focus is on *Student Learning Outcomes* NOT faculty evaluation

- What do we all want?
  - What do we want students to learn?
  - How do we know they have learned it?
  - What can we do, on all levels, to support and improve student learning outcomes?

# Harold Washington College

is a learning-centered urban institution of higher education that offers accessible and affordable opportunities for academic advancement, career development, and personal enrichment. The College is committed to upholding high institutional and academic standards and **to understanding and improving student learning.**

# To accomplish its mission, HWC

- Demonstrates institutional integrity
- Provides liberal and career education
- **Gathers and uses assessment information to improve student learning**
- Employs new technologies to enable students to thrive in a global and technological world
- Builds local and global partnerships to address the changing needs and interests of a community comprised of a variety of cultures and backgrounds
- **Promotes and supports diversity**
- Encourages responsible citizenship
- Sustains an environment that promotes optimal learning for all students
- In every detail, our mission honors the vision of Harold Washington, former Mayor of Chicago.

# General Ed. Objectives

- **To think critically and to analyze and solve problems**
- **To communicate effectively, orally and in writing, and use information resources and technology competently;**
- To use mathematics for computation, reasoning, and problem solving;
- To understand cultures, institutions, and patterns of human behavior and the application of the scientific method to their study;



# General Ed. Objectives Cont.

- To understand the major principles of the natural sciences and the application of the scientific method to biological, physical, and environmental systems;
- **To understand and appreciate the arts, literature, history, and philosophical systems of major world cultures;**
- **To understand and respect human diversity in regard to race, ethnicity, gender, and other issues pertinent to improving human relations**

# General Education Objectives

- Inter-Disciplinary Groups
- Development of Definitions
- Prioritizing Needs
- The Search for Tools Begins

# Critical Thinking

## California Critical Thinking Skills Test

CCTST - 2000

Use the CCTST - 2000 answer sheet.

Bubble in your ID number and name.

Please wait for the instruction to begin.



Dr. Peter A. Facione, Santa Clara University  
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[www.calpress.com](http://www.calpress.com)

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Critical Thinking - Decision Making  
Problem Solving - Reasoned Judgment

**Purposeful, self-regulatory judgment**  
**which manifests itself in**  
**reasoned consideration**  
**of evidence, context, methods,**  
**standards, and conceptualizations in**  
**deciding what to believe or what to do.**

*The Delphi Report: Executive Summary, (1999), The California Academic Press, or ERIC Doc ED415 423*  
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<http://www.insightassessment.com/test-cctst.html>

# California Critical Thinking Skills Test

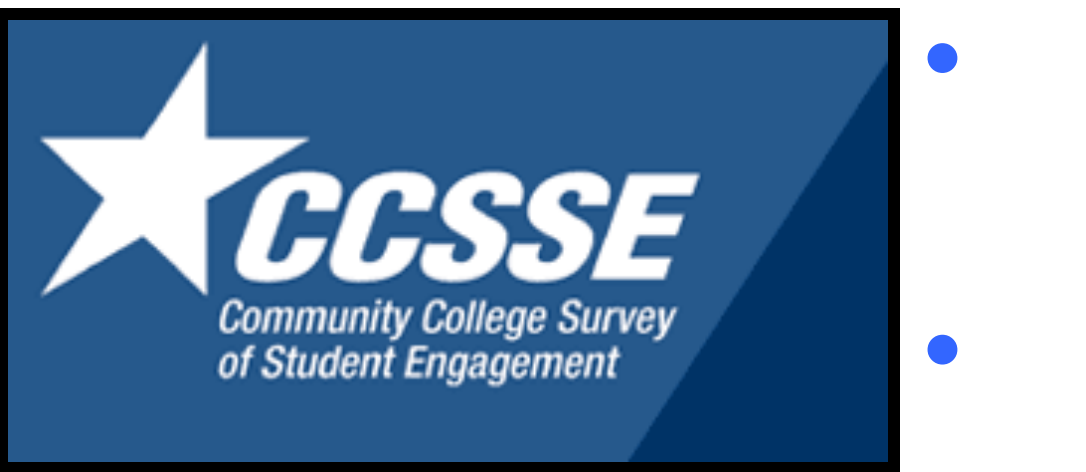
- Results- brochure
- Critical Thinking Workshop
  - One day faculty retreat
  - Presented by faculty for faculty
- Peter Facione
- What Next? Keeping the momentum

# Student Engagement Survey asks students

- how they feel about their college experience
- how they feel about their college experience

- how they feel about their college experience

- how they feel about their college experience
- how they feel about their college experience



# Community College Survey of Student Engagement

- Why Student Engagement?
- FIPSE Funded Project
- What will we uncover?
- CCFSSE
- What Next?



# **Project SAILS**

## **Standardized Assessment of Information Literacy Skills**

- **Standardized test of information literacy skills**
- **Based on ACRL Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education**
- **This Web-based tool allows libraries to document information literacy skill levels for groups of students and to pinpoint areas for improvement.**

# SAILS



- Why SAILS?
- Implementing the tool
- Results
- What Next?



# Diversity

- Diversity means different things to different people
- How do you measure it?
- Climate surveys
- Baseline Data
- [www.diversityweb.org](http://www.diversityweb.org)

# An HWC definition

- **“Human Diversity”** describes variations within the full range of cognitive, behavioral and psychosocial practices through which human beings share life in common spaces. Experiences of diversity include race, ethnicity, gender, religion, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, physical attributes and disabilities, age, health, language, education, political beliefs and other differences in cultural expression and tradition.

# Human Diversity Objectives

- Facilitate the development of a broad perspective of diversity
- Foster responsible citizenship as a member of a diverse world
- Encourage the understanding of commonality and differences
- Provide direct and indirect experiences with various cultures.

# Student Learning Outcomes

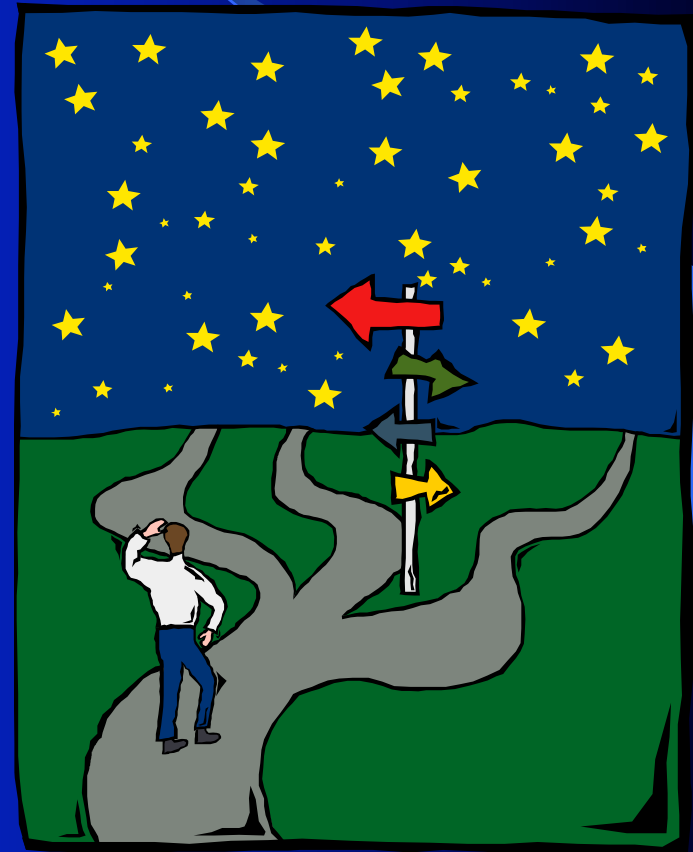
- Analyze & discuss contemporary multicultural, global, & international questions in a diverse setting
- Identify & respect that there are various ways of thinking, communicating, & interacting, for example, by working with culturally diverse groups towards a larger goal

## SLOs cont.

- Evaluate diverse moral & intellectual perspectives, principles, systems, and structures.
- Articulate the value of cross cultural campus & community activities and their impact on the lives of others

# What's next?

- Humanities & the Arts at HWC is:
  - the study of the evolution & development of ideas, beliefs, & philosophies in the context of various forms of cultural expression to broaden the human experience.



# Tool in progress

- Survey

- Questions about student knowledge, skills, and dispositions regarding Humanities & the Arts
- Questions regarding student self perceptions in the context of the Humanities

- Essay

- Students look at a work of art, or listen to a piece of music, or read a piece of literature
- Students answer four questions regarding their reflection and analysis

# Assessment really IS fun

- We have the chance to dialogue across disciplines about what is most important to us
- We continue to focus on student learning and how best to support it
  - *Fun stuff!*



More fun than this...