

Academic Program Assessment Framework

Introduction

Based on extensive faculty feedback, the overall process of Program Review and Student Assessment has been streamlined for convenience.

These processes are required for renewal of the College's accreditation by the Middle States Commission of Higher Education. Noncompliance places institutional accreditation in jeopardy. Accreditation allows the College to (1) provide federal financial aid to students (2) allows College to apply for federal grants. 30% of our students receive federal financial aid. In AY 12/13, this was \$33.8 million dollars... 46% of the Colleges \$73 million dollar operating budget.

The US Department of Education formally recognizes Accrediting Bodies. Recognition grants access to federal student aid and is renewed annually. At the forefront of accreditation is programmatic and student assessment. Accrediting bodies can lose recognition status for failure to monitor this.

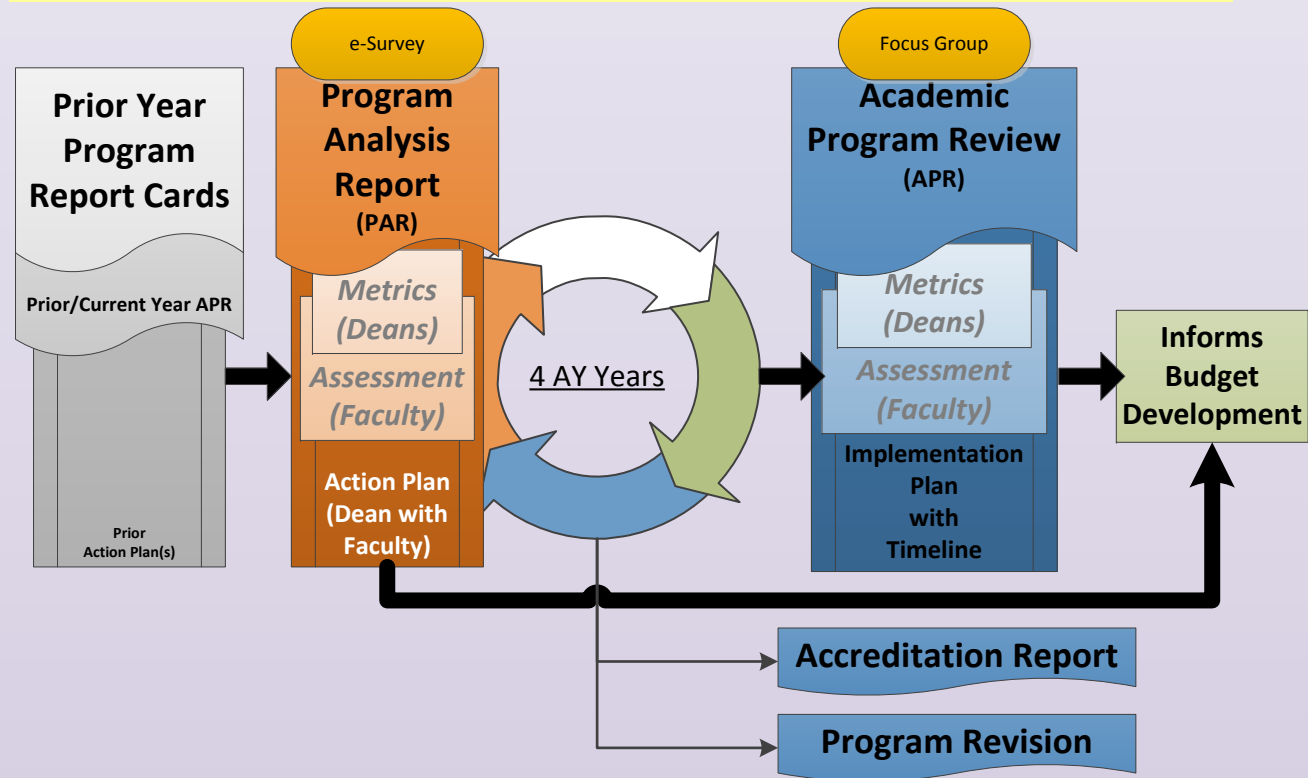
Accreditation is driven by "Standards of Excellence", divided between program assessment and student learning assessment. These are reflected in Standard 7, "Institutional Assessment", and 14, "Assessment of Student Learning".

What Role Do Faculty Play?

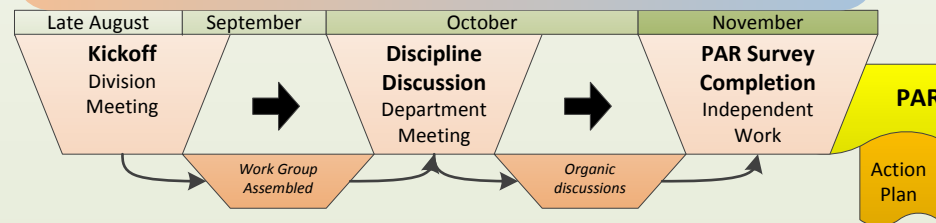
From the faculty perspective, standards 7 and 14 sits at the core of shared governance and academic freedom. Assessment of student learning is driven by faculty, who also share in the responsibility of determining appropriate usage of assessment results. These results are used within two broader frameworks: (1) The accountability of all stakeholders (students, faculty, and administration), and (2) enhancing the quality of the student experience.

In addition, assessment results contextualize programmatic data analytics such as enrollment, retention, and completion, while contributing as appropriate to strategic planning and resource allocation (as one of several variables considered).

Process Overview



Program Analysis Report Timeline



Academic Program Review Timeline

