



Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences - Annual Conference 2023

Assessment Track

Linking ACJS Program Standards to Institutional Assessments

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The Standards

- The standards, refers to criminal justice and criminology degree programs.
- Are derived from a certification program developed in Massachusetts (since defunded/abandoned).
- Address myriad details of
 - Program Structure and Curriculum
 - Content Areas and Related Topics
 - Faculty credentials, headcounts, educational & professional experience, time commitment, and performance
 - and so much more.

Content Areas

- Administration of Justice
- Corrections
- Criminological Theory
- Law Adjudication
- Law Enforcement
- Research and Analytic Methods

The ACJS Standards & your program

- Are you trying to achieve ACJS Certification?
- Are you reliant on numerous adjuncts?
- Do you have assessment data across the program and across the entire institution?
- Are you doing regular assessments, analyzing that assessment data, and closing the loop?
- Are you in ongoing compliance with your regional accrediting body?

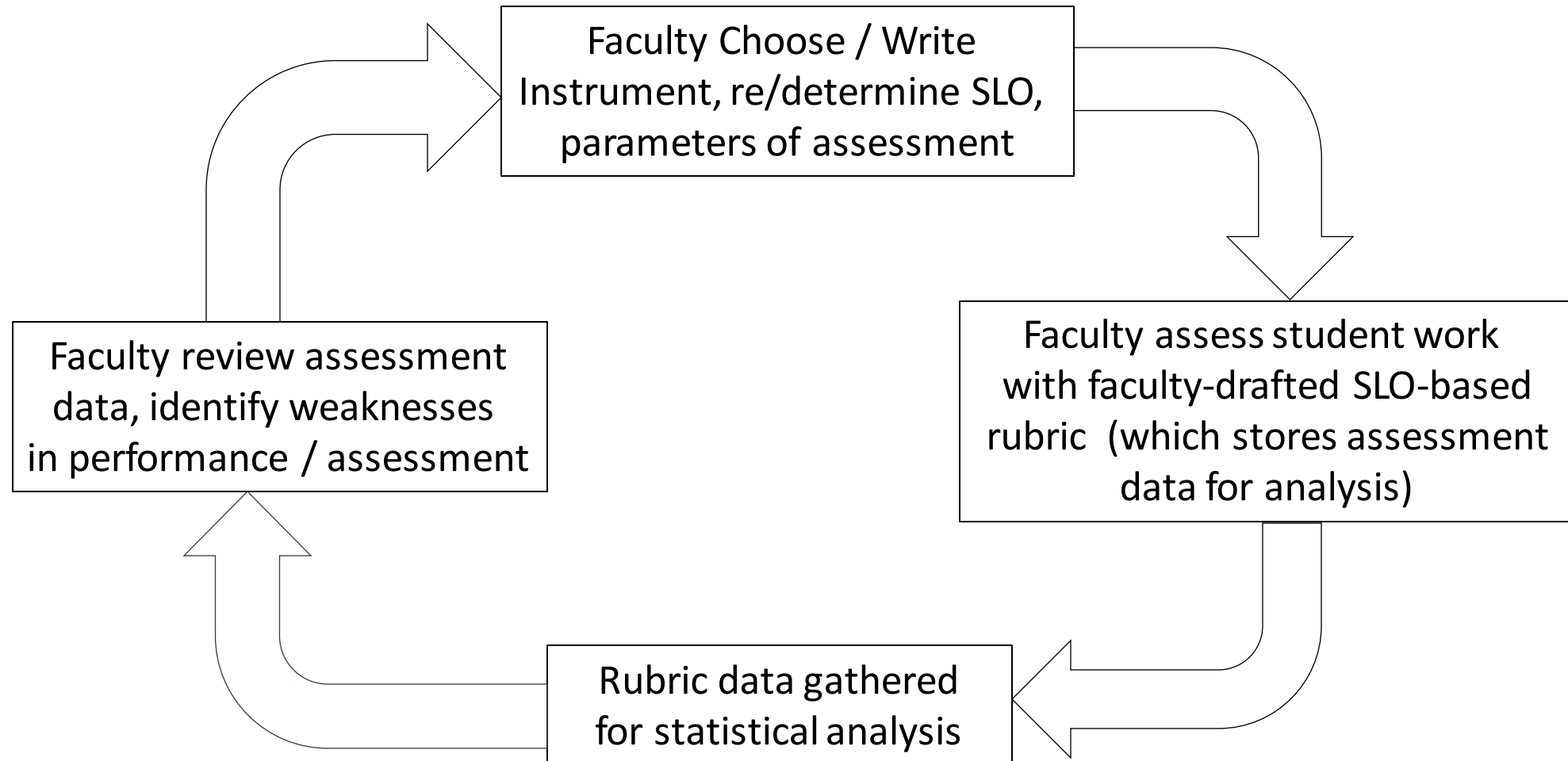
How do you assess?

- *What you are trying to assess makes a difference.*
- Objective or subjective?
- Methods
 - “Scantron” (of what?)
 - Essays (traditional papers or alternatives)
 - Projects
 - Written Exams
 - Practical Exercises
 - External vendor – program & package

Common to all Assessments

- What to assess
 - Institution > Program > Course > Specific content target
 - Institution > Program > Capstone
 - Institution > Program to Program
- Instrument Design
- Comparison Methods
- Rubric Application & Inter-rater Reliability

Assessment: Specific Content Target



Assessment: Program

- Required content areas of Standards: Administration of Justice, Corrections, Criminological Theory, Law Adjudication, Law Enforcement, and Research and Analytic Methods
- Comprehensive Assessment scheme
 - Recommendation: not a battery of content-based tests
 - No requirement that this occur in the capstone course
 - Can be done in upper-level courses where prior learning is applied to more advanced topics (integrating critical thinking and analytical methods)
- Assembly of data to analyze student & program performance

Assessment: Program to Program

- Institutional Assessment Criminal Justice Program to other programs
- GPAs, graduation rates, capstone success, faculty degrees, student:faculty ratios (and so much more)
- Documentation of it all (and still so much more)

Thank you!

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