Using Assessment Results: Closing the Loop

Purpose of Closing the Loop

Closing the loop encompasses the analysis of results from assessment, using those results to make change to improve student learning and service delivery. Ultimately, we are summarizing our findings, declaring needed improvements, and planning the path forward.

Workshop Objectives

At the end of the workshop, participants will be able to:

- Identify aspects of closing the loop

- Describe what information should be included on post-assessment tabs.

- Apply information from the workshop to program or unit assessment.
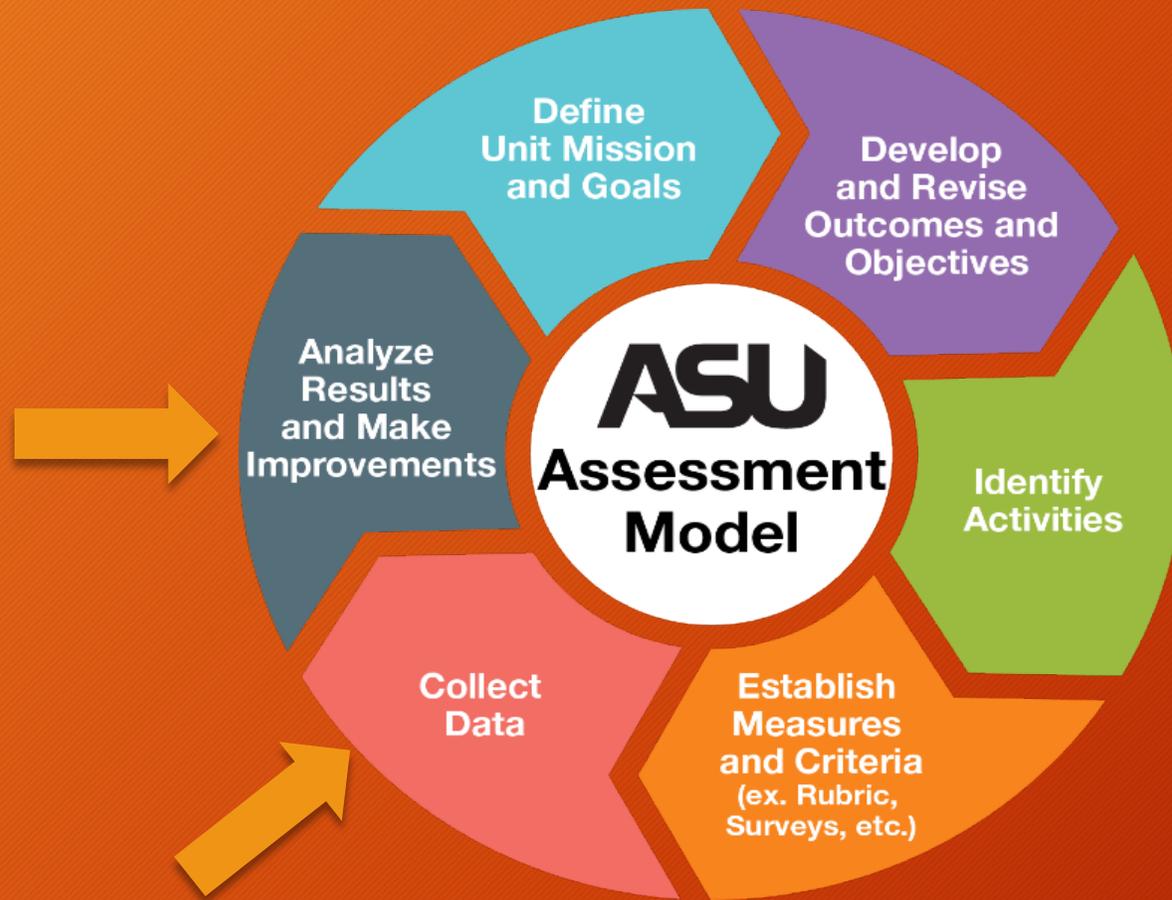
Post- Assessment

- **Clearly summarize** assessment findings: Describe details of data collected
- **Share** assessment findings: Gather conclusions from program faculty, assessment committee and other stakeholders.
- **Discuss**: Provide structured opportunities for discussion of the assessment results. For example, you might make assessment a regular agenda item at meetings of program faculty and staff.
- **Plan**: Develop ideas and proposals for revising learning goals and objectives, the program curriculum, teaching methods, service delivery, processes, assessment methods, etc. Clear assessment results can be used to support requests for resources.
- **Take Action!**

What should we be looking for in our data?

Educational Programs (Examples)

- Identifying the strengths and weaknesses of students related to:
  - specific content knowledge
  - broader degree-related skills, such as writing, oral communication, critical thinking, research, etc.
- To analyze and/or improve content, assignments, etc. for specific courses within the program
- To compare current student performance with previous student performance in the program
- To compare student performance with levels of performance expected by employers, graduate programs and/or professional programs

Administrative Units (Examples)

- Indications for process improvement
- Budget adjustments and resource allocations
- Contributions and impact of the administrative unit to the development, support and growth of students
- Growth opportunities to improve service to students, faculty, staff, alumni and other stakeholders
- Support for critical decision making such as strategic planning, program viability, etc.

Data Analysis | Action Plan | Use of Results

Data Analysis

- Describe Data collected and data analysis.
- Include actual numerical figures discuss the result in relation to the success criteria set.
- What inferences were drawn from the data?

Action Plan

- Describe improvements to be made.
- Provide a plan including timelines and persons responsible for outcomes.
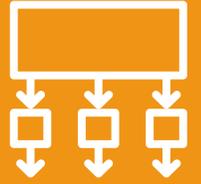
Use of Results

- Identify improvements to be made.
- Add relevant attachments.

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Reminders

- Review assessment reports thoroughly.

- Make sure imported information was properly updated.

- Make certain that you click the submit button for each of the tabs.