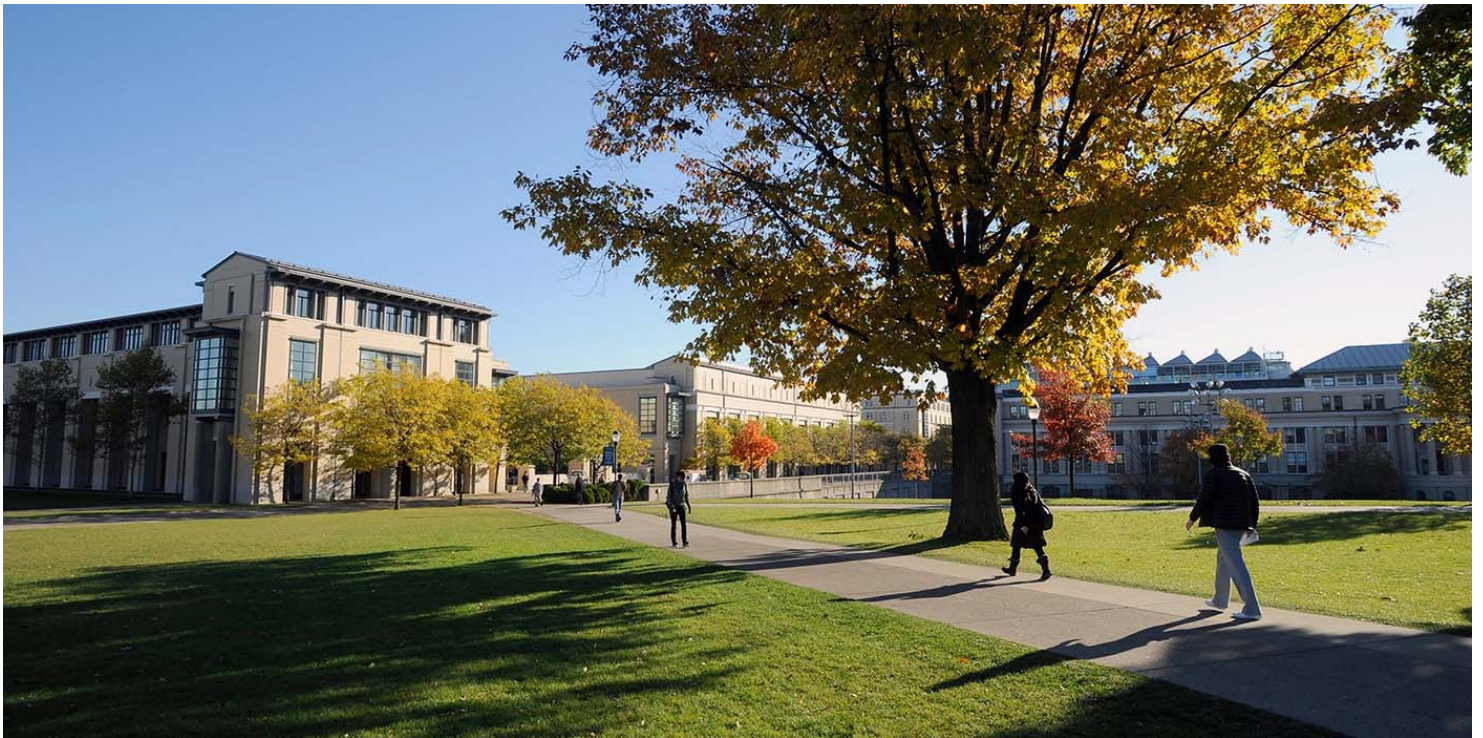


Carnegie Mellon University

Institutional Research and Analysis



Statement of and Direction for Reasonable Assessment

2017

THE PURPOSE OF ASSESSMENT

The purpose of assessment is to support evidence-based decision making through measuring the effectiveness of an activity, function, program, office, department, division, or institution. The Office of Institutional Research and Analysis is committed to supporting assessment efforts across the University by leveraging our expertise in assessment methods, approaches, and applications. We leverage this expertise both by conducting high-quality assessment on behalf of the University, and by supporting our partners in planning, implementing, and utilizing their own existing and future assessment efforts. In keeping with our mission, Institutional Research and Analysis will take a proactive role in supporting these assessment efforts through the following three goals:

1. Identify opportunities within the university to assist assessment efforts across the University and become recognized by the university community as an assessment resource
2. Encourage the use of efficient, effective, and purposeful assessment methods within the University
3. Facilitate coordination of assessment efforts related to university-wide initiatives such as the Strategic Plan, the Task Force on the CMU Experience, and the Middle States accreditation process

GOAL 1

Identify opportunities to assist assessment efforts across the University and become recognized by the university community as an assessment resource.

STRATEGIES

- ◆ Increase IRandA staff knowledge and understanding of assessment priorities across the University
- ◆ Strengthen relationships with our partners and increase our knowledge of their goals and strategic objectives
- ◆ Work with our partners to develop and use clear, measureable outcomes related to their assessment goals
- ◆ Coordinate efforts within or between partner areas when assessment requests intersect

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- ◇ Increased frequency of discussions with our partner model contacts
- ◇ Increased requests from partnership contacts
- ◇ Discussed the assessment efforts and priorities taking place within our partnership areas during staff meetings and individual updates
- ◇ IRandA staff played proactive role in facilitating assessment efforts

GOAL 2

Ensure that assessment efforts across the University are efficient, effective, and purposeful.

STRATEGIES

- ◆ Increase our familiarity with data and information that exists across the university that is relevant to assessment priorities across the university
- ◆ Communicate with our partners about available resources that could be used to meet their assessment needs without conducting additional assessment, such as the Fact Book, the CMU-SES, and information contained within individual departments and units
- ◆ Develop and provide workshops and/or materials that increase understanding of reasonable assessment practices and techniques
- ◆ Develop and provide workshops and/or materials that inform staff about the services we provide and communicate how they relate back to their assessment priorities
- ◆ Support our partners in pursuing relevant assessment priorities, forming clear and purposeful questions and assessment strategies, interpreting the results appropriately, and using the resulting information in ways that align with their assessment goals
- ◆ Encourage our partners to think about assessment through a university-wide lens when scheduling assessment efforts to help increase participation and decrease overlap with other assessments
- ◆ Foster an understanding of how to use assessment results for decision making

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- ◇ Increased staff awareness of available data and information across the University
- ◇ Increased discussion with partners about information available in our office and across the University
- ◇ Increased use of efficient, effective, purposeful assessment and decreased use of unnecessary assessment
- ◇ IRandA-provided workshops are open to the university community
- ◇ Increased use of assessment results for decision making
- ◇ Assessments were planned to minimize respondent burden
- ◇ Decreased overlap in assessment efforts across the university

GOAL 3

Facilitate coordination of assessment efforts related to University-wide initiatives such as the strategic plan, the Task Force on the CMU Experience, and the Middle States accreditation process.

STRATEGIES

- ◆ Increase awareness among IRandA staff of assessment priorities and efforts across the University
- ◆ Identify points of overlap with university assessment priorities and align efforts

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- ◇ IRandA staff involved in committees, task forces, and assessment efforts related to University-wide initiatives
- ◇ Reduced redundancy in assessment efforts across the University