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The SEARLE Assessment Framework & Strategy

AFFILIATION

Searle Center for Advancing Learning and Teaching

Office of the Provost

Northwestern University

Student-Centered | Equitable | Authentic | Responsive | Lifelong | Empathetic



Northwestern University

Private, select-enrollment R1 university with 21,000 students (8,000 undergraduate and 13,000 graduate students) in the Midwestern region of the United States.



Goal 3.2 Community

Connect educators with fortifying knowledgesharing communities to identify barriers to student learning and interventions that enable all students to thrive.



Goal 3.3 University-wide Engagement

Shape the development of authentic, systematized, and sustainable assessment cycles within programs and schools; Advance the institutional assessment strategy towards successful reaccreditation.

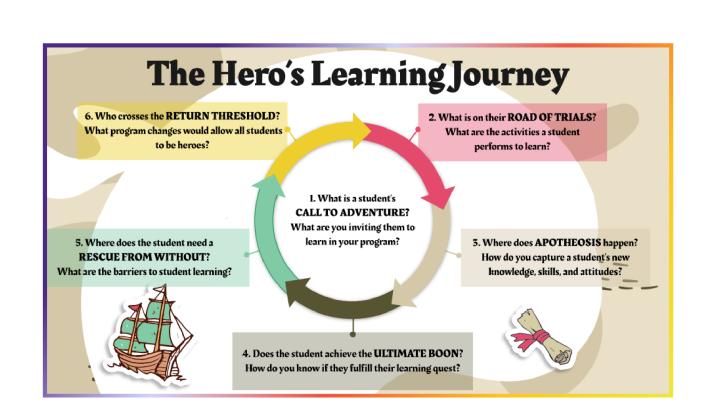
The Searle Center for Advancing Learning and Teaching

As a unit of the Office of the Provost, we advance the University's priorities of excellent teaching and of its students in a diverse academic community.



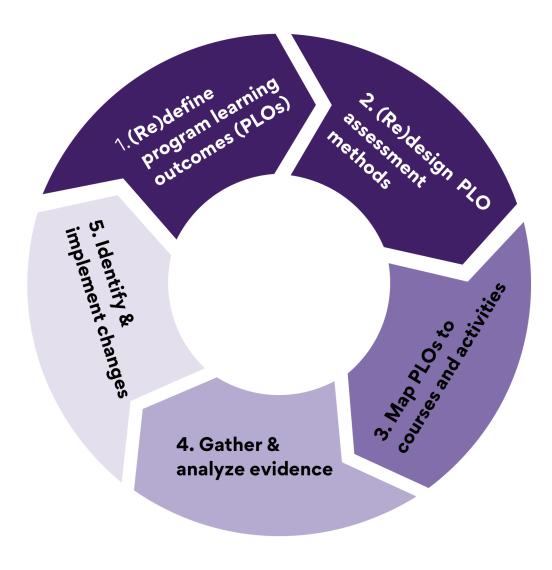
Centering Student Experience

Workshops on how to translate the assessment cycle into student-centered language.



Assessment Cycle

A revised, customized version of the assessment cycle that emphasizes shared university-wide language about assessment processes.









Searle Center 2030 Strategic Plan

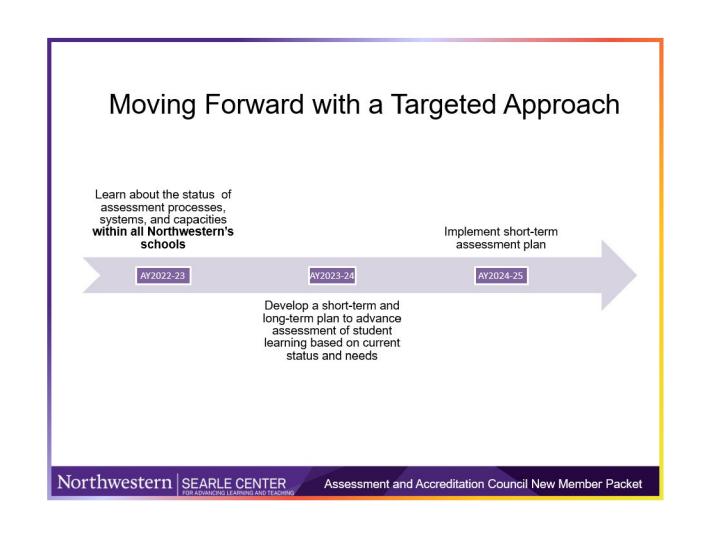
Priority 3: Stimulate Assessment to Drive Substantive Course/Curricular Development

4 Priorities with 4 Goals Each

Co-Creating Rubrics assignments. Key benefits: Student engagement and voice Transparency and understand Relevance Skill development · Higher order learning and

Co-creating Rubrics

Consultations and workshops to promote rubric co-creation with students as an equitable assessment practice.

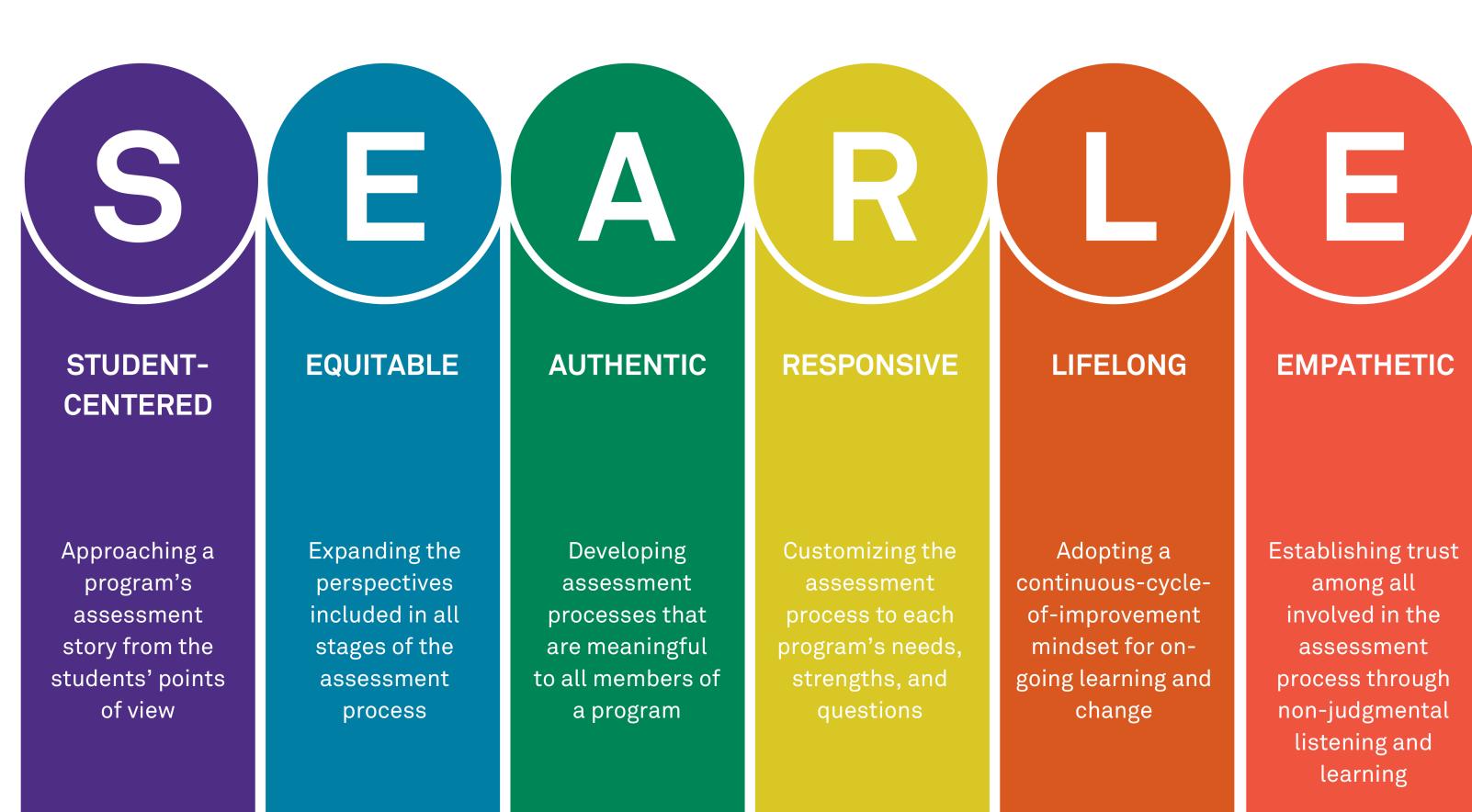


Assessment and **Accreditation Council**

The Council, with representatives from all 12 schools plus faculty senate and key co-curricular partners, is directed by the Searle Center who onboards each new member about our approach.

The SEARLE Assessment Framework

Dietz, L. and Eskew, L. (2025) "Harmonizing Perspectives." Transformative Dialogues. Forthcoming



Modeling Curriculum Mapping

Three types of curriculum map templates for programs to use based on their contexts and priorities.

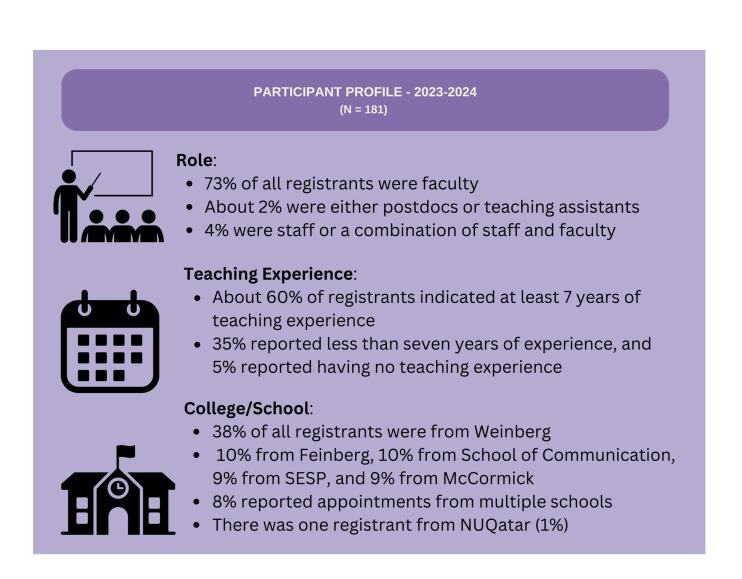
Basic Program Curriculum Ma	in the second	Program or Major Learning Outcomes				
Columns: Program Outcomes	Courses	(PLO1)	(PLO2)	(PLO3)	(PLO4)	(PLO5)
Rows: Courses	(Course 1)	X			X	
In this map, an "X" placed in a cell	(Course 2)	×	×		×	
indicates that a particular learning outcome is being demonstrated in a certain course. This exercise in	(Course 3)		×	×		
alignment of learning outcomes and courses ensures program	(Course 4)				×	×
course (curriculum) cohesion and understanding.	(Course 5)		×	×		×
Curriculum Map with Skill Levi		Program or Major Learning Outcomes				
Columns: Program Outcomes	Courses	(PLO1)	(PLO2)	(PLO3)	(PLO4)	(PLO5)
Rows: Courses	(Course 1)	1		÷		
In this map, an T is placed to show where learning is <i>introduced</i> , an 'R	(Course 2)	R				Ğ
when <i>reinforced</i> , and 'M' when	(Course 3)	R	R	31	R	
mastered . This exercise is ideal to	(Course 4)	1	9	R	2	R
map progression of learning or sequential program curriculum.	(Course 5)	М	M	M	М	М
Curriculum Map with Skill						
Level and Embedded		Program or Major Learning Outcomes				
Columns: Program Outcomes	Courses	(PLO1)	(PLO2)	(PLO3)	(PLO4)	(PLO5)
Rows: Courses	(Course 1)	l/Quiz			I/Exam Qs	
This map outlines the expected skill level and the method of	(Course 2)	R/Project	l/Final Exam			l/Final Exam
assessment for the learning	(Course 3)	R/Final Paper	R/Final Paper	l/Exam Qs	R/Final Paper	x 2000000 00000
outcome. It facilitates alignment, 🥏	(Course 4)			R/Final Paper	R/Final Paper	R/Final Paper

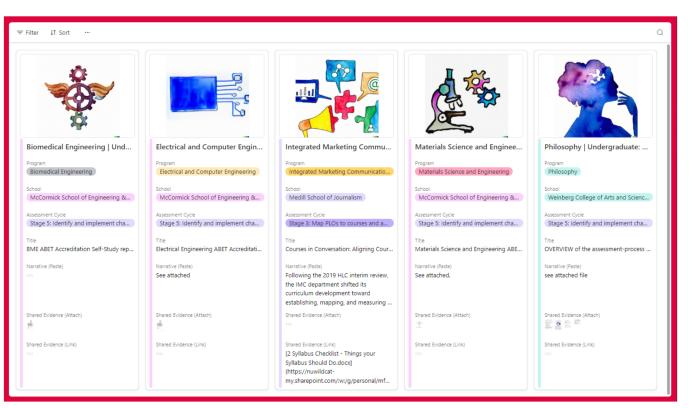


Learn More about Assessment at the Searle Center!

2023-24 Reimagining **Assessment Practicum**

A university-wide initiative to maximize students' learning and growth with an emphasis on equitable approaches to and methods for assessment. Available as an Open Educational Resource.





Assessment Gallery

A centralized database to collect, share, and celebrate the excellent work programs are doing to improve student learning. Publicly viewable on the Searle website.