

IUPUI Assessment 2023
Pre-Institute Workshop
Sunday, October 29, 2023, from 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

**Assessment as a Profession, Field, and Discipline:
Taking Action, Thinking Ahead**

Working Agenda

9:00-9:15 a.m.	15 Minutes	Welcome and Introductions
9:15-9:30 a.m.	15 Minutes	Framing of Workshop
9:30-10:00 a.m.	30 Minutes	Icebreaker: Assessment: Profession, Field, or Discipline?
10:00-11:00 a.m.	60 Minutes	Orienting Activity: Where are You Now?
11:00-12:00 p.m.	60 Minutes	Action Plan & Wrap Up

Definitions

- *Profession* – people who work in a profession do so because they have a certain set of skills that align with the work. The skills and knowledge of the profession are defined but it isn't something that most people call their "home" career field. They often are trained to do something else and bring those skills to bear.
- *Field* – in addition to having many aspects of a profession, a field (or career field) is distinguished by having many people who dedicate themselves to this work as their "home" career field. That is they identify as having a career in assessment.
- *Discipline* – in addition to having many aspects of a profession and field, a discipline also implies rigorous academic and research foci within the discipline. It would also imply that the discipline regularly posits and tests theories in practice.

Suggested Readings

Curtis, N. A., Anderson, R. D., & Van Dyke, R. (2020). A field without a discipline? Mapping the uncertain and often chaotic route to becoming an assessment practitioner. *Research & Practice in Assessment*, 15(1), 1-8. Retrieved from <https://www.rpajournal.com/dev/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/A-Field-Without-A-Discipline.pdf>

Prendergast, C. O., Baker, G., Henning, G., Kahn, S., McConnell, K., Stitt-Bergh, M., & Townsend, L. (2022). Fields, professions, and disciplines: Exploring professional identity in assessment. *Research and Practice in Assessment*, 17(2). Retrieved from <https://www.rpajournal.com/dev/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Fields-Professions-and-Disciplines-RPA.pdf>

Please cite materials: Slotnick, R., Curtis, N., & Gambino, L. (2023, October). Assessment as a profession, field, and discipline: Taking action, thinking ahead. Pre-Conference Workshop Handouts, Indianapolis; 2023 Assessment Institute in Indianapolis.

Orienting Activity:

Where are You Now? Where Do You See Yourself?

For this activity, use the definitions of profession, field, and discipline to consider where you see yourself currently and in the future.

Step 1: Think, Compare, Discuss (20 min)

Review and write down your answer to the following questions and then compare your answers with a partner:

Current: Where are You Now? (20 min)

1. What is your current position?
2. What is your home field?
3. What is your reporting structure?
4. Do you engage in assessment-related research and/or scholarship? Is research/scholarship required as part of your role?
5. Do you publish? Present?

Step 2: Think, Compare, Discuss (20 min)

Review and write down your answer to the following questions and then compare your answers with a partner:

Future: Where Do You See Yourself?

1. What is your future position?
2. What is your home field?
3. What is your future reporting structure?
4. Will you do research? Or will research be required as part of your role?
5. Will you publish in the future?
6. Anything else you want to add?

Part 3: Group Share Out and Discussion (20 min)

Assessment as a Profession, Field, and Discipline: Taking Action, Thinking Ahead

Developing an Action Plan

For this last activity, we will take what we've learned and discussed and begin to develop an individual action plan, identify the steps we need to take to achieve our short-, medium-, and long-term goals.

The template below can serve as a starting point for this action plan. We've added some initial categories to the plan. You will want to add other categories, as appropriate. For each category, you may have one or more steps to add to your plan.

While this is an individual action plan, we encourage you to talk with your peers and share your insights, questions, and/or concerns.

Step 1: Identify your goals: In the space below, please identify where you are currently and where you hope to be and what you hope to accomplish in the short-, medium-, and long-term.

Current Position:	
Short-Term Goals:	
Medium Term Goals:	
Long-Term Goals:	

Step 2: Identifying Action Steps Using the goals identified above, consider the steps you will need to take to achieve those goals. Use the table below to develop a written action plan. We've put some categories here to get you started, but feel free to add additional categories.

Category	Action Step	Timeline (S)hort, (M)edium, (L)ong Term	Additional comments (insights, questions, concerns)
Professional Development			
Research and Scholarship			
Opportunities with and outside of the Academy			
Professional Organizations and Networking Opportunities			

Step 3: Final Reflection: Use the space below to write down and final thoughts or things you want to remember from today's activities.