

MAKING CHANGES BASED ON EVIDENCE

Historically, many changes in higher education were made based on preference or anecdotal evidence, a practice that is diminishing due to an increased focus on transparency and effective use of resources. When institutions use evidence or data to drive decisions, they are more likely to produce the results they intend. They also increase efficiency and maximize resources by becoming more strategic.

There is no one, right way to use information for decision making; as long as you're collecting data and using the findings to inform next steps, then you're on the right path. The table below suggests changes you might think about using assessment information.

PROGRAM	CURRICULUM	OPERATIONS	ASSESSMENT PLAN OR PROCESS
<p>Academic Units</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider potential new program direction or purpose - Reflect on alignment between outcome and mission or purpose - Revise course sequencing - Add courses - Remove courses - Adjust admission standards - Modify advising process <p>Student Support Services and Administrative Units</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider potential new program direction or purpose - Critically reflect on program outcomes or objectives - Adjust admission standards - Revise activities, events, assignments, or expectations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Experiment with new teaching techniques - Modify course content - Rework course or co-curricular materials or activities - Add or delete student assignments - Revise student evaluation, including graded and non-graded methods, e.g., adding a new element to a rubric - Critically reflect on what type of evidence will provide information on student achievement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reconsider the unit's strategic goals - Revise initiatives, services, events, or assignments - Implement new processes - Abandon outdated processes - Revise expectations - Identify different standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Study new objectives or outcomes - Select different methods for collecting information - Revise sampling procedure - Adjust criterion - Engage different colleagues in discussion of plan or results - Disseminate information through different channels