

# ***ASSESSMENT:***



## ***A Rich Conversation***

Prepared by  
Barton County Community College  
Outcomes Assessment Committee

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## *Assessment ~*

- ~ is a rich conversation about student learning informed by data. ~ Ted Marchesi*
- ~ is an on-going process in which useable feedback is reflected upon by the students and teacher to improve student learning.*
- ~ produces a helpful product that enables faculty to make curricular improvements the purpose of which is to increase student learning.*
- ~ ensures our constituencies that we do what we advertise, provide quality education.*

## *Assessment is not ~*

- ~ simply giving tests or assigning grades*
- ~ a statistical exercise*
- ~ a fad*

## *Questions to pose about student learning ~*

- ~ What do we know about student learning?*
- ~ What do we think we already know?*
- ~ How will we use information to make positive changes?*

*What is Barton County Community College doing to assist the institution, its faculty, and students in their assessment efforts?*

*~ The Outcomes Assessment Committee*

- ✧ Develops and maintains the College's Assessment Plan*
- ✧ Provides assessment training opportunities*
- ✧ Reports to the College community on Barton's on-going assessment efforts*

*~ The Barton Assessment Plan*

- ✧ Describes the implementation of assessment activities at the Classroom, Course, Program, and Degree Levels*

*~ Administrative Support*

- ✧ Ensures that assessment results are not used for faculty evaluation*
- ✧ Guarantees that assessment results are used to make improvements that will enhance student learning*
- ✧ Strongly encourages every faculty member to regularly incorporate assessment activities into the classroom*
- ✧ Requires each faculty member to document at least one Classroom Assessment Technique (CAT) every semester*

**BARTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT**

Barton's Outcomes Assessment Committee is committed to quality education and to the assessment of student learning for the purpose of improving students' academic achievements at the class, course, program, and degree levels.

**Guiding Principles**

To ensure that the College's programs and services are of the highest quality, continually improved, and meeting the needs of students, the assessment of student learning and academic achievement at Barton

1. serves primarily to improve student learning and development.
2. is comprehensive and is based upon the educational values reflected in the mission of the College.
3. involves a variety of assessment methods.
4. is a systematic, continuous, and formative process for gathering and using information about student learning.
5. confirms the attainment of students' goals and objectives for all of their courses, programs, and degrees.
6. measures both the outcomes and the experiences that lead to those outcomes.
7. is an integral part of the College culture.
8. is supported through on-going training and budgeting process.

**Rationale Statement**

Barton's Outcomes Assessment Committee exists to design, implement, and facilitate processes which will be used primarily to improve student learning through making positive changes in the Barton curriculum. Once established, these assessment processes guide individual instructors and departments in making informed decisions about their instructional methods, delivery, and curriculum. These assessment processes also provide information which allows students, community members, state and federal agencies, and accrediting agencies to recognize that Barton is fulfilling the promises of the College's mission. The implementation of assessment processes necessitates changes which may be difficult at times; despite these challenges, the Committee believes strongly that by working together, all members of the Barton community have the potential to make an excellent institution even better.

*~ Barton Program/Course Assessment Plans*

**Common Components:**

- ✧ *Program Mission Statement OR Course Description*
- ✧ *Goals*
- ✧ *Measurable Student Outcomes*
- ✧ *Assessment Results*
- ✧ *Use of Results*

*~ When we are clear about what we intend students to learn, we know what we must assess!*

*~ FEEDBACK LOOP ~*

*What do we do with the results of assessment?*

*~ Close the assessment loop by*

- ✧ *Discussing the results with colleagues*
- ✧ *Making changes to instruction*
- ✧ *Considering different approaches*
- ✧ *Considering ideas from others*
- ✧ *Making changes to curriculum*
- ✧ *Evaluating the assessment instrument*
- ✧ *Assessing the learning outcome again*
- ✧ *Discussing the results with students*