



Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment Policy

Goal. To continuously build upon a culture of continuous improvement through the commitment to a genuine, comprehensive, and evolutionary process that allows an authentic reflection of progress while clearly marking a path in strategic decisions making and resource allocation to secure our vision.

Vision. Northwestern State University will become the nation's premier regional university through the innovative delivery of transformative student learning experiences that prepare graduates for life and career success.

Purpose. To describe Northwestern State University's Institutional Effectiveness Assessment Model. This model brings structure and standardization through policy and process to the existing methodology used at Northwestern.

Applicability. All University employees will support the Institutional Effectiveness Policy (IEP) in accordance with their assigned position, level of authority, and responsibility.

Model. The Louisiana Board of Regents and the University of Louisiana System Board of Supervisors increasingly hold institutions accountable for achieving positive outcome measures in academics, as well as support services. To offer federally-based financial aid to its students, the University must remain accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). In part, this requires Northwestern to demonstrate an active assessment process that continuously examines the services and programs that lead to improvement. According to SACSCOC: "The institution identifies expected outcomes for its educational programs and administrative and educational support services; assesses whether it achieves these outcomes; and provides evidence of improvement based on analysis of those results." SACSCOC further explains, "Institutional effectiveness is the systematic, explicit, and documented process of measuring performance against mission in all aspects of an institution." As such, our model consists of the following components, each with its purpose stated:

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Principles of Accreditation: Foundation for Quality Enhancement, 16 Feb 2021. To integrate the comprehensive standards into the daily operations of Northwestern through integration and ownership.

Northwestern State University Strategic Plan 2016-2023 – *Dedicated to One Goal – Yours and 2023-2028 A New Day*. Provides the foundation and philosophy guiding the University's strategic decision making.

Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). The QEP bridges any gaps between classroom theory and application and serves as a visible, tangible, and active vehicle demonstrating the University's commitment to innovative teaching and learning practices for student success.

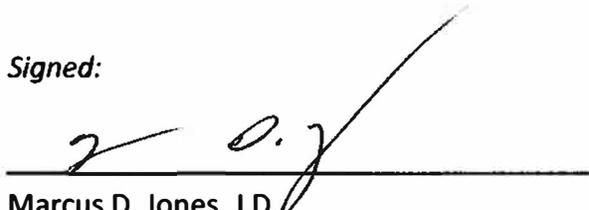
Institutional Effectiveness Assessment Process. Describes the Institutional Effectiveness Process that undergirds the Strategic Plan at College, Program, and Department levels. It identifies the process used to determine the desired outcomes for both academic programs and administrative support services while assessing attainment and allowing for evidence-based analysis for improvement. This process is informed through the results of Student Learning Outcomes and Service Outcomes designed by faculty at the individual course level and administrators at the operational level.

Strategic Planning and Budgeting Process. Emphasizes a high level of transparency in concert with the principles of our strategic intent while providing the information necessary for sound decision-making, supporting innovation and entrepreneurship, and maximizes the University's support from campus stakeholders and private donors.

In addition to the elements above, Northwestern considers the Boards of Regents, Supervisors, State, and Federal mandates and regulatory guides/requirements as supporting components of its holistic Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment Process.

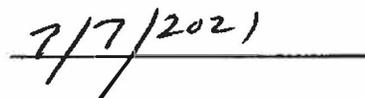
This policy is effective upon signature. Direct all questions and concerns to the Executive Director for Institutional Effectiveness and Human Resources.

Signed:



Marcus D. Jones, J.D.
Acting President
Northwestern State University

Date:



7/7/2021

Reference:

Resource Manual for the Principles of Accreditation: Foundation for Quality Enhancement. (2012). SACSCOC Resource Manual, 3rd Edition (2020), first printing, 1-192. doi: 16 February 2021.