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How to Say Yes to Assessment: Breaking Down Barriers

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How to Say Yes to Assessment: Breaking Down Barriers

Dave Reinhold, Associate Provost for
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Studies

Lack of Experience Syndrome

- What is assessment?
- How do I get started?
- What if I do it wrong?
- They didn't teach this in graduate school.

Cure

- Contact Dave Reinhold or the University Assessment Steering Committee for help
- Click on Assessment in the WMU A - Z tab on the home page

Time Management Syndrome

- I already have too many things to do.
- I wasn't hired to do this.

Cure

- Don't try to assess all learning at once, break it up into doable pieces.
- Not every assignment needs to be assessed. Choose those that best represent the learning objective being measured.

We're Already Perfect Syndrome

- We've met all our criterion.
- Our students can't possibly learn more than they already know.

Cure

- Revisit criteria for adequate student learning
- Consider increasing acceptable levels of learning
- Don't determine criteria based upon current data

Accreditation Syndrome

- We're an accredited program, so we just need to comply with their standards.
- Our accreditation requires assessment, we received our accreditation, therefore we are fine.

Cure

- Begin thinking about accreditation and assessment of student learning as two very different processes (which they are).

Perfectionist Syndrome

- Our plan has some weaknesses, so it is not ready for implementation.
- We're not sure we will get usable data from what we have.

Cure

- Try it. If the data you get are not usable, modify the plan.
- Assessment is not a perfect science. There is no one right answer.

Who is the Assessment Doctor?

- WMU assessment web site.
- University Assessment Steering Committee (UASC)
- Karen Stokes Chapo (TracDat and iWebfolio)
- Me (david.reinhold@wmich.edu)