

**Assessment Institute Presentation Themes**  
**Find the Assessment Institute at [assessmentinstitute.iupui.edu](http://assessmentinstitute.iupui.edu)**

The Assessment Institute in Indianapolis, organized and hosted by IUPUI, is now the nation's oldest and largest event of its type, routinely attracting 1,000+ participants from all fifty states and several foreign countries. The Assessment Institute strives to be a valuable resource for faculty, administrators, policymakers, and others engaged in assessment. The sessions offered annually at the Institute address the full array of current and emerging assessment issues: methods, tools, processes, measures, design and implementation models, and assessment in a variety of contexts, as this volume demonstrates. The Institute welcomes and invites participants from all backgrounds, levels of experience in assessment, and higher education sectors.

Presenters have emphasized the following topics in recent years:

- **Levels of assessment:** Sessions have addressed assessment practices focused on individual students and groups or cohorts of students within classes, courses, programs, and disciplines in both academic and co-curricular units, and across campuses, institutions, and systems of higher education.
- **Assessment in various contexts:** Contexts include general education and discipline-specific offerings; programs with specialized accreditation; co-curricular programs; student engagement, success, retention, and persistence interventions; learning activities in out-of-class settings like experiential, international, and virtual or online learning; and campus services.
- **A variety of assessment methods:** Assessment methods considered include both direct and indirect approaches; authentic assessments based on papers, projects, performances, and ePortfolios; observations of practice or simulated practice situations; paper/pencil or electronic/computer tests; performance on locally developed or national tests; program reviews; signature assignments; surveys, interviews, and focus groups; syllabi or transcript analyses; and use of rubrics.
- **Stakeholder involvement in assessment activities:** Stakeholders discussed include students themselves; faculty, staff, and administrators; institutional governance bodies; employers and community members; P-12 institutions and higher education consortia; foundations and other grant-making organizations; regional and specialized accreditors; national organizations and associations; international partners; and publishers and commercial vendors.
- **Integration with and linkage of assessment to other processes:** Other processes connected with assessment in important ways include curriculum planning and revision; faculty development; promotion and tenure practices; rewards and recognition for faculty and staff; strategic and annual planning; accreditation and institutional improvement and effectiveness strategies; data collection, storage, and analysis; resource identification, prioritization, and allocation; and technology and facilities planning, renovations, and upgrades.

- **Uses of assessment findings:** The various uses of assessment discussed include improving student learning in assorted contexts; designing assignments and learning activities; enhancing instructional environments, both physical and virtual; demonstrating accountability or compliance with requirements and standards set by external stakeholders; fostering internal improvement and development; communicating accomplishments to various audiences; and incorporating assessment findings into research and other scholar pursuits.
- **Emerging ideas in assessment:** Institute sessions have addressed a wide range of emerging ideas over the years, including assessing assessment by ensuring meaningful use of results; broadening assessment to include graduate and professional programs, co-curricular learning spaces, and administrative functions; and improving assessment methods by responding to dynamic changes in institutional contexts and focusing on equitable, inclusive learning approaches and environments.