



## CORE CURRICULUM ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The complete evaluation of the SCU Core Curriculum occurs over a seven year cycle. Every academic year, two or three areas of the Core Curriculum have been scheduled for evaluation. For a given area that is being evaluated, the total number of sections offered in a specific academic term is identified. Typically, all sections will be included in the evaluation process. All enrolled students in the selected sections are asked to sign a consent form permitting the university to confidentially review their work for purposes of Core assessment. A random subset of students who signed the consent form is selected from each participating course section and these names are provided to the appropriate faculty member. The intent of this selection process is to create a *representative sample* of students enrolled in the collection of offered courses that have been approved for a specific Core area.

Faculty members in the selected sections are asked to identify one or more assignments that they have determined are aligned with the learning objective(s) being evaluated. Faculty are asked to provide this assignment (or collection of assignments) for each of the selected student participants to the Office of Assessment. All names and course identifiers are removed from the student assignments. Core assessment is not an evaluation of student, professor, or course performance. For all official Core Assessment Reports, the data are treated in aggregate form only and are used to review student learning in terms of articulated Core student learning objectives.

Core rubrics for each of the Core student learning objectives are being developed by the Office of Assessment in collaboration and consultation with the Faculty Core Committee (FCC) Chairs and others as recommended by the Core Curriculum Implementation Team. Faculty and staff with disciplinary and / or professional training in the Core area being evaluated are invited to participate in a Core “Rubric Scoring Party”. At these rubric scoring meetings the volunteering faculty are trained and calibrated in the use of the Core rubric(s) and asked to score a subset of the collected student assignments. A percentage of assignments are scored by multiple readers to verify reliability. The resulting scores are analyzed by the Office of Assessment and a Report of Findings is generated. These reports are used by teaching faculty and academic departments to reflect on Core courses and make warranted adjustments and improvements. Core assessment findings are incorporated into participating department’s annual assessment processes as appropriate. Follow up workshops are offered in collaboration with the Office of Faculty Development to support the faculty in areas of assignment design and mapping assignments to Core student learning objectives as well as other themes that may emerge from the assessment results.