Assessment Workshop Series – Summer 2011

Brief description of program:

The Student Affairs Assessment, Evaluation, and Research (AER) office offered five trainings on different topics to Student Affairs Staff. The StudentVoice Basics and Advanced trainings provided hands-on training to the assessment software program utilized by the division. The Rubrics training provided an introduction to rubrics and to the self-service StudentVoice rubric tool. The Assessment Basics workshop provided an overview of assessment (developing questions, designing study, interpreting findings, and implementing changes). The Survey Development workshop focused on developing questions, scaling, and data analysis strategies.

Who was asked to complete survey: All attendees to the workshops

Response Rate:

StudentVoice Basics: 75.0% (6 of 8)
StudentVoice Advanced: 100.0% (7 of 7)
Rubrics: 75.0% (6 of 8)
Assessment Basics: 75.0% (6 of 8)
Survey Development: 75.0% (3 of 4)

Administration Type: StudentVoice mailing

Summary of Key Findings:

- All respondents learned content from each workshop, including the following:
    - StudentVoice Basics: ways to administer surveys through StudentVoice, how to interpret results, how to filter data
    - StudentVoice Advanced: how to utilize graph features in StudentVoice.
    - Rubrics: how to create a rubric, how to utilize the rubric tool in StudentVoice
    - Assessment Basics: when to use different methods of assessment, working with AER on assessment projects
    - Survey Development: basics of survey development, different types of scales
- In the StudentVoice Advanced workshop, respondents indicated less knowledge on how to create a benchmark report and interpret significant differences in the report.
- Most respondents found the workshops useful or very useful.
- Comments from all workshops mentioned the benefit of the practice worksheets, activities and discussions, rather than an "information dump."
- An additional theme among the comments was an appreciation for the workshops.

Actions Taken:

- Feedback was shared with presenters for professional development and training purposes.
- Based on positive feedback on the practice worksheets and activities in each of the workshops, future workshops will continue to incorporate activities and discussion.
- The StudentVoice Basics training was scheduled for 1.5 hours instead of 1 hour as in the past. It was the appropriate amount of time for the material covered. Therefore, future workshops should continue to be 1.5 hours.
- The StudentVoice Advanced workshop was new and did not receive as positive feedback as the other trainings. AER will consider modifying which topics are covered in the different workshops, to allow sufficient time for more detailed questions. In addition, this workshop used a national benchmarking survey to demonstrate the different features of SV; however, the survey itself was somewhat complicated. Future workshops may want to use a University of Utah project, with an emphasis on how attendees could use benchmarking in their own offices.

Which department and/or program goals does this survey align with?

4.a. Provide training to Student Affairs staff on assessment, strategic planning, and related topics.
4.d. Provide experiential learning opportunities for undergraduate and graduate AER staff.

Which Student Affairs goals does this program align with?

6.f. Provide educational opportunities for staff to develop and refine assessment skills.