Assessment Quality Review – FAQ’s

What is the Assessment Quality Review (AQR)?

The AQR is an evidence-based self- and peer-review of 14 quality criteria of a degree or certificate program’s assessment plan and practices. These 14 criteria are organized within five standards and three overarching values that provide a framework for high quality assessment of student learning.

Values: Transparency, Integrity, Efficacy
Standards: Mission Statement; Goals and Outcomes for Student Learning; Curriculum; Assessment Processes; Improving Student Learning

Evidence of meeting the criteria for quality assessment is available, for the most part, in the assessment plans, findings, and action plans in WEAVE online. Each of the 14 points is rated on the following scale:

0=Does Not Meet Quality Criteria
1=Partially Meets Quality Criteria
2=Meets Quality Criteria

What are the purposes of the Assessment Quality Review?

- Improving assessment practices.
- Improving student learning.
- Engaging faculty in assessment practices.
- Being accountable and transparent about assessment and student learning to an array of stakeholders externally (SACS and other accreditors, parents, the Commonwealth of Virginia) and internally (students, faculty, administrators).

How will AQR findings be used?

**Internal Reporting and Planning:** Departments will use AQR findings for program review and to improve assessment practices; Deans will use AQR findings, along with other metrics, to report on Provost and Presidential Quest for Distinction priorities.

**External Reporting:** Academic Affairs will use AQR findings to prepare summative reports for SACS and other stakeholders as necessary; accredited programs can use AQR findings to report to accreditors on the quality of assessment practices.

What is the process for conducting the Assessment Quality Review?

**First Semester (orientation & preparation):** The Dean’s office appoints AQR Coordinators to lead and coordinate the review process. The Office of Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness provides orientation workshops.

**Second Semester (write the review):** Each AQR team assembles evidence and prepares commentary for each of the 14 items in the review. The review is submitted to AIE at the 12th week of the semester. The second part of the review consists of peer reviewers using the same rubric to certify and summarize the self-review.

**Third Semester (analysis & plans for improvement):** The reviewed program, in consultation with AIE, will develop plans to improve and advance assessment of student learning.

When will a program participate in the AQR?

A three year schedule, aligned with the six-year program review schedule, will identify when a program participates in the review.