



## **Institutional Effectiveness Policy**

**Goal.** To further build on a culture of continuous improvement through the commitment to an honest, comprehensive, and evolutionary process that allows a true reflection of progress. This process will mark a path in strategic decision making and resource allocation to secure our vision, which is to become the nation’s premier regional university through the innovative delivery of transformative Student learning experiences that prepare graduates for life and career success.

**Purpose.** To describe Northwestern State University’s Institutional Effectiveness Assessment Model. This model brings structure and standardization through establishing policy and process to the existing methodology used at Northwestern.

**Applicability.** All University employees will support the Institutional Effectiveness Policy (IEP) in accordance with their assigned position, level of authority, and responsibility.

**Model.** The Louisiana Board of Regents and the Board of Supervisors of the University of Louisiana System hold institutions accountable for achieving positive outcome measures in academics as well as support services. Our ability to offer Students federally-based financial aid depends on our accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). In part, this requires us to demonstrate an active assessment process that examines the services and programs that lead to improvement. According to SACSCOC, “The institution identifies expected outcomes for its educational programs and administrative and educational support services; assesses whether it achieves these outcomes; and provides evidence of improvement based on analysis of those results.” SACSCOC adds, “Institutional effectiveness is the systematic, explicit, and documented process of measuring performance against mission in all aspects of an institution.” As such, our model consists of the following components and associated purposes.

**Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) *Principles of Accreditation: Foundation for Quality Enhancement*, 2012.** To integrate the comprehensive standards into the daily operations of Northwestern through integration and ownership.

**Northwestern State University Strategic Plan 2016-2021.** Provides the foundation and philosophy guiding the University’s strategic decision making.

**Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP).** The QEP bridges gaps between classroom theory and application and serves as a visible, tangible, and active vehicle for the University to demonstrate its commitment to innovative teaching and learning practices for Student success.

**Assessment Process Guide.** Describes the Institutional Effectiveness Process that undergirds the Strategic Plan at the College, Program, and Department level. It identifies the process used

to determine the desired outcomes for both academic programs and administrative support services while assessing attainment and allowing for evidence-based analysis for improvement. This process is informed through the results of Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) designed by faculty at the individual course level.

**Strategic Planning and Budgeting Process.** The model emphasizes a high level of transparency in concert with the principles of our strategic intent while providing the information necessary for sound decision-making, supporting innovation and entrepreneurship, and maximizing the University's campus stakeholder and private donor support.

In addition to the elements above, Northwestern considers the Boards of Regents', Supervisors', and State and Federal mandates and regulatory guidelines/requirements as supporting components of its holistic Institutional Effectiveness Assessment Process.

This policy is effective upon signature. Direct all questions and concerns to the Executive Director for Institutional Effectiveness and Human Resources.

*Signed*



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Chris Maggio, Ed.D.

Acting President and

Vice President for The Student Experience

*Date*

1-27-17

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Reference:

Resource Manual for the Principles of Accreditation: Foundation for Quality Enhancement. (2012). SACSCOC Resource Manual, 2nd Edition (2012), first printing, 1-146. doi: 22 January 2017