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Exit Testing: A Status Report

Wright College
Raymond Le Fevour, President

History of Exit Testing

- Prior to Fall of 1997, some exit (progress testing) existed at Wright, but few courses had exit testing that impacted student final grades.
- In Fall of 1997, President Le Fevour indicated Wright had to move into the future by verifying that the College was maintaining high academic standards. He challenged faculty and academic administrators to develop and implement a plan for exit testing and to tie this plan to the improvement of teaching and learning.

Why Exit Test?

- Maintain and/or increase standards of student performance.
- Reaffirm or improve departmental syllabi and common course objectives.
- Develop common expectations of all students.
- Catalyze academic debate over curriculum within our academic departments.
- Evaluate part-time faculty.
- Improve success rate of students who transition from developmental courses to credit courses.
- Provide performance-based data for North Central assessment and curriculum improvement efforts.

Our Goal

- Develop and pilot exit testing for all students in multi-sectioned, multi-instructor courses based on a minimum set of core competencies as determined by the full-time faculty.

The Basic Plan

- Students must be passing the course at time of exit exam in order to take exam.
- Exit tests are written by the department and passing score determined by the department.
- Passing of exit tests is mandatory for student to receive a passing final grade.
- Each department is required to develop an appeals process for exit exam failures.

Our Progress to Date

- Exit testing now taking place in every academic department.
- Exit testing implemented in 38 courses.
- Currently over 90% pass rate after appeals processed.
- Renewed academic debate within and among our academic departments on ways to better integrate college curricula.

Desired Long-Range Impact

- Improve success rate for students transitioning from developmental to transfer courses.
- Review and strengthen our curriculum as a component of our North Central Association Assessment Plan.
- Improve on Wright's community reputation for quality education.
- Position ourselves for potential performance-based funding initiatives.

Our Team

- Department Chairs
- Faculty Council
- Academic Affairs
Committee
- Assessment
Committee
- Office of Instruction

