ETEAL Assessment and You: How Assessment helps Students, Faculty, and UNCW

What is ETEAL Assessment?
Every semester, students in ETEAL-supported Applied Learning Initiatives gain valuable experiences and learn vital skills that will help them throughout their lives and careers. To maximize the benefit of these Initiatives, ETEAL looks at student work, including reflections, and faculty reflections. Our analysis will help us understand how Applied Learning has the greatest impact, which techniques work best, what challenges arise, and how students and instructors handle them. This information will help us improve the quality of professional development, support, and resources available for Applied Learning.

The Goals of ETEAL Assessment
The primary goal of ETEAL Assessment is to analyze student work in the context of the experience they took part in and analyze what effect the Applied Learning Initiative had on their overall learning. Overall, we’d like to find out not only how taking part in the experience has affected students and instructors but also whether or not ETEAL’s involvement has had any impact on student learning and instructor pedagogy.

In the long run, Assessment helps us to build a library of best practices, to better support future funded initiatives, and to improve student learning all across campus.

How does ETEAL Assessment work?
Students and instructors remain anonymous during the assessment process. The volunteers who assess student work don’t know the student’s name, the name of their instructor, or whether the course was an ETEAL-supported Applied Learning Initiative or not. Information from student work and instructor reflections are combined with survey information. The analysis will be performed each year, and any differences over time will be determined.

What are the Assessment Criteria?
• At the end of each ETEAL-supported Applied Learning Experience, we review student work products such as their critical reflections. By reading these reflections, we can better understand how much each student has learned and what impact the experience has had on them. These reflections are scored using a rubric based on the ETEAL Student Learning Outcomes.

ETEAL Student Learning Outcomes
• Each ETEAL-supported initiative has its own discipline specific SLOs. In addition, all ETEAL-supported initiatives share the three SLOs common to all Explorations. Beyond the Classroom:
  • Intention: Students will articulate their expectations, the purpose, and/or the goals of the experience in terms of their personal educational development.
  • Application of Knowledge: Students will synthesize knowledge drawn from their coursework to address the issues/challenges/questions involved in the experience.
  • Critical Reflection: Students will communicate the impact or significance on their personal educational development and on others in the profession or in the field at the conclusion of the experience.

Assessment Resources
If you need suggestions for prompts for your students’ reflections, or need information about the process of collecting information from your applied learning experience, check out the Assessment Resources page of the ETEAL site at www.uncw.edu/ETEAL/resources/assessment.html for helpful information, example prompts, important Assessment dates, and more! If you’d like to schedule a meeting to talk about Assessment, please contact Robert Hicks (hicksr@uncw.edu)

“Assessment Defines what we Value”
-Edward White