Doing Assessment: Four Ideas

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June 18, 2016
ABA Associate Deans Conference
Minneapolis, MN
IDEA #1: Assessment is a process
Denver Law Student Learning Outcomes

1. Graduates will have acquired and will be able to apply foundational legal doctrine and concepts in core substantive areas.

2. Graduates will have developed critical thinking skills.

3. Graduates will have developed legal analysis and writing skills.

4. Graduates will have developed legal practice skills, for example, drafting, negotiation, interviewing, client counseling, and oral presentation.

5. Graduates will have developed a sense of professional identity, including characteristics of professionalism and practices associated with its development and maintenance.
IDEA #1: Assessment is a process, an on-going form of inquiry that will not result in a definitive conclusion.

IDEA #2: Do assessment piece-by-piece
What is an Assessment Project?

1. Focuses on a specific SLO or part of an SLO
2. Contains data and analysis
3. Is presented to faculty, e.g.:
   • to a committee or group
   • then to faculty as a whole
4. Final written report contains evaluation of findings and suggestions, if any, for change
Assessment Plan

Project 1
Year 1

Project 2
Year 1

Project 3
Year 1

Project 4
Year 1

Project 5
Year 1

Project 1
Year 2

Project 2
Year 2

Project 3
Year 2

Project 4
Year 2

Project 5
Year 2

Project 6
Year 2
IDEA #1: Assessment is a process, an on-going form of inquiry that will not result in a definitive conclusion

IDEA #2: Do assessment piece-by-piece, in a series of Assessment Projects

IDEA #3: Identify existing practices at your law school that lend themselves to studying your SLOs
Finding the data that informs these Assessment Projects

• Bar passage results
• LSSSE results
• Identify innovators on the faculty

• Look at certificates/centers at your law school – is there student work-product?

• Clinics, Externships, Trial Advocacy, etc., are sites where skills are learned
IDEA #1: Assessment is a process, an on-going form of inquiry that will not result in a definitive conclusion.


IDEA #3: Identify existing practices at your law school that lend themselves to examining your SLOs.

IDEA #4: If we want to own this, we can rwagner@law.du.edu.