



Planning, Research & Assessment

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Planning, Research & Assessment

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Welcome to the second **Planning, Research & Assessment (PRA) electronic newsletter**, the Fall 2010 issue. This electronic newsletter is published by the [Planning, Research & Assessment Office](#) (PRA) at Penn State Berks.

The purpose of the PRA electronic newsletter is to disseminate information on current assessment, institutional research, and planning projects at the College.

The PRA office is grateful for Bryan Danner, Senior IST major and PRA intern, and Maureen Carr, part-time PRA report specialist.

Email comments by clicking here: [PRA Office](#). We're also on Facebook & Twitter. Click on the icons to connect.

This publication is also available on the [PRA Newsletter web page](#).



Assessment Tools Created

PRA has developed several assessment tools for faculty to use in program as well as course assessments. One of these tools is showcased below. Email [PRA](#) identifying one of the instruments contained in this tools and how you have or are planning to use it and PRA will send a small token of appreciation for your assessment efforts.

With the updated version of ANGEL, assessment objects were added and repositories became much easier to access. As such, the **Assessment Tool Repository 2** is available to any instructor. One advantage of this repository, is that it is organized by assessment content (ex. teamwork, criti-

cal thinking, writing, intern evaluations, graduate surveys and much more!). Instruments used by Berks faculty and developed as a result of the assessment grants are in the repository.

HOW to USE the ANGEL Assessment Repository

1. In your course space in ANGEL, Click on *Add Content* from top menu, Choose Import from *Learning Object Repository*
2. Click Browse tab
3. Choose Assessment Repository 2
4. Select assessment instrument(s) to import
5. Click the Copy Items button on right
6. In 1st pop-up box, click the Continue button
In 2nd pop-up box, click OK

Assessment objects from the repository can be linked directly into drop box objects.

First Year Seminar Survey

This fall, A [First Year Seminar](#) (FYS) survey was disseminated to all students enrolled in these sections. The purpose of the survey was to ascertain the extent that the first year seminar is aligned with the University first year experience objectives:

- 1.) To introduce students to university study,
- 2.) To introduce students to Penn State as an academic community, including fields of study and areas of interest available to students,
- 3.) To acquaint students with the learning tools and resources available at Penn State,
- 4.) To provide an opportunity for students to develop relationships with full-time faculty and other students in an academic area of interest to them, and
- 5.) To introduce students to their responsibilities as part of the University community.

The survey comprised of five areas: Classroom, Academic, Personal/Social, Campus Behavior, and University Policy. Surveys from ninety-six percent (95.7%) of the FYS sections were returned. Thanks to the FYS faculty for their help and support.

Composite	Frequency	Importance
Classroom	72.9%	79.2%
Academic	76.8%	81.4%
Personal/Social	62.3%	73.9%
Campus	88.3%	90.8%
University Policy	91.1%	91.1%

Results indicate (see chart to the right) that students enrolled in the FYS know the importance of good classroom, social/personal, and academic behaviors and report that he/she are engaging in these behaviors frequently.

Contact Dr. Tami Mysliwicz at thm2@psu.edu for more information.

Strategic Indicators in a Flash

Most faculty and staff at Berks is familiar with the multicolor Strategic Plan Scorecard. Moreover, the Strategic Plan Scorecard provides an excellent summary of what's been accomplished regarding the Berks 2008-2013 strategic plan, [Building on 50 Years of Excellence](#).

However, activities, trends, and details of the status of each action step has not been available previously. This reporting gap has been rectified with the creation of the [Strategic Plan Impact Scorecard](#). Using [Adobe Flash](#), the Impact Strategic Plan Scorecard web site provides additional details on the activities and efforts that have been put forth to achieve the strategic plan.

Data Warehouse Requests

