

September 2009

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LAMP Webpage:

Visit our website for updates and
committee resources

www.dhe.mo.gov/lamp.shtml

Meeting Schedule

Year-Long Large Group Schedule--
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

FULL LAMP COMMITTEE:

- Thursday, November 19, 2009

Goal: To review and provide status
updates from subcommittees and
discuss next steps.

- Monday, February 8th, 2010

Goal: To decide tasks for research
of policy area: general education
assessment

- Tuesday, April 15th, 2010

Goal: Discuss findings regarding
general education assessment;
formation of preliminary
conclusions and year-long progress
for reporting to MDHE

Welcome Back

Welcome to the latest installment of the Learning Assessment in Missouri Postsecondary Education (LAMP) newsletter. This newsletter is sent to all LAMP members and other stakeholders; this issue focuses on achievements to date, goals for the 2009-2010 academic year, and the benefits to statewide collaboration on assessment issues. We hope this will keep all participants informed and up to date on our activities.

Thank you for your continued participation and efforts to inform assessment policy in Missouri.

You've Come a Long Way, LAMP!

LAMP has made significant progress over the past year. We have:

- Recruited over 60 institutional professionals, including content, assessment, and administrative professionals
- Clarified the principles of inclusion, a community developed document outlining ethical and appropriate practice in assessment policy development
- Outlined the policy questions to be answered in operationalization of the Curriculum Alignment Initiative (CAI) competencies and the Imperatives for Change (IFC) indicators related to assessment
- Undertaken foundational research surrounding the fundamentals of assessment and current assessment practice in Missouri
- Responded to the MDHE Commissioner's request to prioritize research regarding access and placement assessment policy
- Developed and delivered a LAMP Status Report to the Coordinating Board for Higher Education (CBHE) in June 2009, which included findings regarding assessment principles, current Missouri practice, and preliminary research findings on access and placement issues

The full LAMP Status report can be found at:

www.dhe.mo.gov/files/lampstatusreport06112009.pdf;

A summary of LAMP activities may be found in the June CBHE Board Item:

www.dhe.mo.gov/mdhe/boardbook2content.jsp?id=698.

LAMP Goals

LAMP leadership has spent time over the summer carefully considering how best to move forward with the tasks outlined in the original LAMP charge. To be proactive, but allow for sufficient time to research, dialogue, and formulate policy recommendations, as well as allow for public feedback, the LAMP leadership has developed a measurable set of goals for the next 18 months.

LAMP Leadership

Rita Gulstad
Central Methodist University
Co-Chair, LAMP and Assessment
Practices Subcommittee

Jeff Lashley
Moberly Area Community College
Co-Chair, LAMP and
Communications Subcommittee

Michael Strait
University of Missouri-Kansas City
Co-Chair, LAMP and Literature
Review Subcommittee

MDHE Facilitators

Angelette Prichett
Research Associate, Academic
Affairs

Jeffrey Smith
Research Associate, Academic
Affairs

Fall 2009:

- Finalize access and placement policy recommendations
- Field survey and report on CAI competencies adoption at Missouri institutions
- Create crosswalks between CAI entry competencies and ACT college readiness competencies, as well as K-12 Course Level Expectations (DESE assessment standards)
- Review comments on recommendations, CAI competencies survey, and CAI crosswalks for incorporation in access and placement policy recommendations, as appropriate
- Finalize access and placement recommendations and deliver to the MDHE Commissioner

Spring 2010:

- Develop bibliography on general education assessment research
- Formulate research questions, task individual research assignments, and identify any additional survey needs at large group meeting
- Develop general education assessment research/surveys into reports
- Formulate preliminary conclusions regarding general education assessment
- Develop end-of year status report for MDHE Commissioner and CBHE

Summer 2010:

- Develop 2010-2011 goals and action plan with LAMP leadership

Fall 2010:

- Finalize general education assessment policy recommendations
- Review comments for incorporation in access and placement policy recommendations, as appropriate
- Finalize access and placement recommendations and deliver to the MDHE Commissioner

LAMP Subcommittee Updates

The LAMP Subcommittees are in the process of reviewing and adjusting action plans to align with the 2009-2010 identified goals. Current activities include:

Assessment Practices Subcommittee:

Assessment Practices committee is developing a survey to send to institutions to determine to what extent the CAI competencies are being used.

Literature Review Subcommittee:

Literature Review committee is working on fully finishing the access and placement literature review, in order to provide the needed research findings to prepare policy recommendations for public comment in September.

Communications Subcommittee:

Communications committee is working on a plan for better engagement of faculty and developing consistent communication to the CAO groups. They will also be reviewing external communication avenues for improvements to emails, newsletters, and the LAMP website, as well as possible new avenues to improve internal group communications, such as the employment of wikis.

Benefits of Statewide Assessment Policy Development

LAMP was created out of the responsibility of the CBHE to coordinate the system of higher education across the state while respecting and valuing the autonomy of individual institutions. The development of sound, evidence-based, collaboratively-developed, assessment policy recommendations positively impacts more than just state-level policy.

- Participation in LAMP places empirically supported policy development in the hands of faculty
- Tells what students have taken away and what they are capable of doing after completing a given course or program of study
- Allows institutions and faculty to maintain autonomy by being active participants in the policy development process
- Provides opportunity to demonstrate to stakeholders that institutional autonomy and accountability are compatible

Volunteer to Participate with LAMP



We hope this newsletter has you interested in participating in the LAMP initiative to collaboratively develop assessment policy for Missouri. If you are interested in participating in LAMP, please email Angelette Prichett at angelette.prichett@dhe.mo.gov. Your experience and expertise are welcome!

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