

Step 8: Sharing and Using Results

What are some ideas about how to share our results? As of the academic year 2019-2020, ISU requires that all our programs share their results in a brief annual report. Results are a natural part of program reviews and accreditation reports. Non-academic units often prepare annual reports, and they also have periodic program reviews. Below are some additional ideas about who might be interested in your results:

- ✓ Alumni or college newsletters
- ✓ Donors and the community
- ✓ Legislators
- ✓ Parents and potential students
- ✓ The university community
- ✓ Administrators
- ✓ Those developing budgets

What are some ways to use the results to make curricular or program changes? The terminology often used in assessment for this step is “closing the loop.” All that means is making changes based on assessment data and then continuously reviewing those changes. It is important to remember that if you change multiple things all at once, it will be harder to determine what worked to help student learning.

In the classroom setting, some of the following ideas were used:

- ✓ Had students take graded quizzes or a practice exam with feedback on test-taking skills, classroom discussion about problem and questions
- ✓ Did a curriculum map of the concepts/skills students most struggled with and realized it was introduced, but not reinforced. This also occurred at the program level. Had additional work to reinforce the concept/skill
- ✓ Used clickers during class to more readily get feedback on students’ understanding and adapted lectures as they occurred
- ✓ Changed to a textbook with better and clearer information or better support materials
- ✓ Changed when in the semester a project or test occurred because too much was due too close together
- ✓ Made sure homework and assignments with feedback were returned in a timely way so students could incorporate the feedback and improve
- ✓ Asked students to share the “muddiest point” each class, determined trends and addressed the issues the next class
- ✓ Asked students to engage in active learning, see, share, and do, for example. Involved problem-solving with students going to the board to share step-by-step answers or verbally reporting answers

In programs at Idaho State, based on a survey in 2017, the following occurred:

- ✓ Changed the curriculum – a sequence of classes, the content of classes, dropped one and added another
- ✓ Updated equipment and materials
- ✓ Changes to pedagogy – incorporated active learning, changed projects and activities, developed a capstone class or project
- ✓ Program reorganization – involved courses under the control of the program or department and other classes outside the department or program
- ✓ Revised the assessment process
- ✓ Revised advising procedures
- ✓ Revised learning outcomes
- ✓ Revised the strategic plan