



August 2009

Assessment Notes

Did you know?

62% of the first-time freshmen in Fall 2008 were “first-generation” college students?

First Generation

All full-time faculty can access TracDat reports on a read-only basis? TracDat

Seventy-six Viterbo students participated in Study Abroad programs in 2007-2008?

Study Abroad Program

391 students graduated from Viterbo with a Bachelor's degree in 2007-2008?

Bachelors & Assoc.by Primary Major)

Faculty at Viterbo exemplify effective assessment practices. See examples of learning outcomes and rubrics from a variety of academic programs. Assessment

The AIR Web Site: Information and Resources

The Office of Assessment and Institutional Research supports the mission of Viterbo University by providing reliable information about students, faculty, and staff, programs, and resources, as well as peer institutions and external environment.

The AIR website is organized by our two areas: Assessment and Institutional Research.

Assessment

Provides a host of resources to support enhancement of student learning, such as a link to

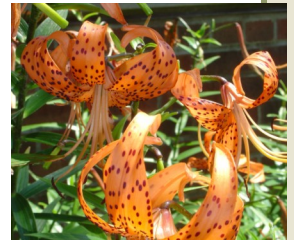
TracDat, information about the Academic Assessment Task Force, examples of effective assessment tools and plans from Viterbo's academic programs, and other resources.

Institutional Research

Offers information on student enrollment and characteristics as well as faculty and programs.

The AIR website continues to be updated regularly, so please check back often! If

you have any questions, suggestions, or need additional data, please give Naomi Stennes-Spidahl a call at ext. 3481, nrstennespidahl@viterbo.edu



Examples of Assessment Results in Broad Field Social Studies, Nursing, and M.A. in Education Available

Academic programs are poised to test the effectiveness of curricular or pedagogical changes made to enhance student learning. Our collective goal is to see significant strides in “closing the loop” in the Sept. 30, 2009 updates in TracDat. Examples of how programs are using TracDat to report improvements in student learning are available on the Assessment and Institutional Research website. Students in the **Master of Arts in Education** showed improvement in research presentations after a

slight adjustment in student preparation. In **Broad Field Social Studies**, initial results indicate that teaching strategies designed to heighten critical thinking are contributing to understanding of ethical aspects of historical issues for majors. Because of small numbers of majors, the department will continue to analyze assessment results for this outcome. **Nursing** students showed improvement in response to environmental issues after a focused

curricular change. For further details, click on: “Closing the Loop.”

“Assessment per se guarantees nothing by way of improvement, no more than a thermometer cures a fever,”

T.J. Marchese