



JOHNSON COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Volume 7, Issue 4
February 2016

Save the Date

6th Annual Regional
Community College
Assessment
Conference

Friday, April 22
9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Office of Outcomes Assessment

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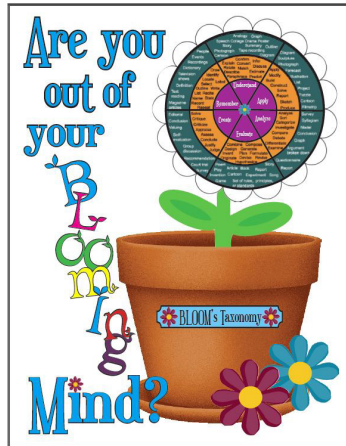
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Spotlight on **Assessment**

Back to Basics: Revisiting Bloom's Taxonomy

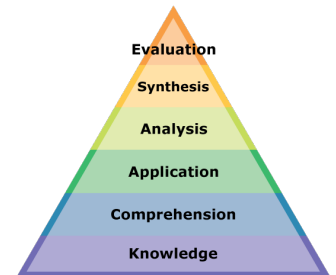


A common challenge in college teaching is keeping course objectives, program outcomes and classroom assessments in alignment. As we construct our assessment instruments, course assignments and test questions, are we also considering where on the cognitive ladder we are asking our students to think?

In 1956, Benjamin Bloom headed a group of educational psychologists who developed a classification of three domains: Cognitive: mental skills (Knowledge), Affective: growth in feelings or emotional areas (Attitude), and Psychomotor: manual or physical skills (Skills).

Within this cognitive domain, Bloom identified six levels from the simple recall or recognition of facts at the lowest level through increasingly more complex and abstract mental levels to the highest order thinking characterized as evaluation. This representation of the levels of thinking is widely known in education circles as "Bloom's Taxonomy."

Bloom found that over 95% of the test questions students encountered in the classroom require them to think only at the lowest possible level...the recall of information. As educators we tend to ask questions in this, the "knowledge" category, about 80% to 90% of the time. However, course objectives are often written at higher levels of the taxonomy, like application or analysis. So testing basic knowledge or comprehension skills of students may not align with our stated course or program outcomes of enhancing problem solving.



**Figure 1: Bloom's
Cognitive Taxonomy**

Revisiting Bloom's Taxonomy can be enormously helpful for faculty, who can use this framework to tie together course objectives, program outcomes and classroom assessments. For more resources on this topic or support in applying these concepts to your assessment, please contact the Office of Outcomes Assessment.

OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT MINI-GRANTS FUNDS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR THIS ACADEMIC YEAR

Don't forget OOA mini-grants are available on a rolling deadline.

Submit by the 15th of the month to be considered in that month. Use mini-grants to jump-start or continue your assessment projects. Funds may be used for assessment resources, travel for assessment-related activities, equipment or software dedicated to assessment efforts, assessment retreats, costs associated with data input or external consultants, and more.

Mini-grants are now available for up to \$750.

New guidelines/applications are available from the Office of Outcomes Assessment, GEB 262, on InfoShare or on the Assessment by Design blog.

Apply for the Excellence in Outcomes Assessment awards!

– Deadline March 1 –



The Office of Outcomes Assessment encourages all faculty who have completed assessment cycles and implemented meaningful changes serving student learning to apply for awards for **Excellence in Outcomes Assessment**. Two awards, one for individual and one for team efforts, will be presented

in recognition of the exemplary use of assessment to improve student learning at JCCC.

Have you integrated new teaching strategies in response to what your assessments told you? Have you tweaked your curriculum or played with your pedagogy? If so, visit the OOA for an application. The award includes a monetary stipend of \$500 for the individual recipient and \$1,000 to be shared by team recipients. This process allows for self-nomination or nomination by others. Nomination applications should be received by **March 1**. Materials will be vetted through the Office of Outcomes Assessment for completeness before being forwarded to an external reviewer.

More information can be found at: blogs.jccc.edu/outcomesassessment – under the Forms tab.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Office of Outcomes Assessment, ext. 7607, or Staff and Organizational Development, ext. 7654.

Brown Bag Brownie Breaks / Coffee Breaks

Call the Office of Outcomes Assessment today and set up a Brown Bag Brownie Break or Coffee Break for your department or program. We'll come to you and be happy to customize the conversation to fit your assessment or program review needs!

Quote of the Month

"There's virtually no limit to how much learning we can remember as long as we relate it to what we already know. In fact, because new learning depends on prior learning, the more we learn, the more possible connections we create for further learning."

Make It Stick: The Science of Successful Learning. Peter C. Brown, Henry L. Roediger III, Mark A. Daniel.

Check out this book today at the OOA resource library in GEB 262.

Assessment: Shifting from Compliance to Ownership

April 22, 2016

6th Annual Regional Community College Assessment Conference

The conference will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 22, 2016, at Johnson County Community College.

The 2016 conference theme is Assessment: Shifting from Compliance to Ownership and will be highlighted in the keynote address by Dr. Jillian Kinzie from NSSE and in breakout sessions throughout the day.

The cost of the conference is \$85.00, but mini-grant funds are available to pay for the conference through the Office of Outcomes Assessment. Apply today – registrations are limited!

