*Please share with your faculty:*

**The important role of rubrics in closing the assessment loop**

Closing the assessment loop means using assessment data to make data-driven decisions and changes, as well as evaluating the effectiveness of those decisions. Rubrics play an important role in this process by facilitating the collection of reliable and valid data that can be collected and compared over time. Standardized rubrics not only make the criteria expected for each objective transparent, but also provide numerical values indicating students level of mastery on each objective.  Quantifying students’ success in this way allows for the tracking of data driven decisions and changes to determine if they are effective in increasing the percentage of students’ achieving mastery on a targeted objective.  Developing standardized rubrics for program assessment purposes should be a collaborative effort whereby faculty within a program meet to discuss what criteria demonstrates achievement of an objective, and to define the benchmark that constitutes success on each objective.  The Association of American Colleges & Universities (AAC& U) has developed and published a set of peer reviewed Valid Assessment of Learning in Undergraduate Education (VALUE) rubrics including critical thinking, written communication, oral communication, quantitative literacy, information literacy. Here is a link to download these rubrics <http://www.aacu.org/value-rubrics> which can be a good starting point for developing rubrics for program-level, student learning assessment purposes.

**Check out!** Watermark (October 17, 2024). *Rubric based assessments: Usage and benefits.* <https://www.watermarkinsights.com/resources/blog/rubric-based-assessments-usage-and-benefits/>

**Please share examples** of how your program uses rubrics for program assessment of student learning objectives and I will feature those examples on [YU’s Learning Assessment Website](http://yu.edu/provost/assessment/).

**Important reminder:** Fall 2024 assessment reports will be due by **January 10**. Please contact me with any questions.