



Assessment Policy November 2009

Approved
Board of Trustees, Academic Affairs Committee
November 23, 2009

Assessment is a strategic commitment of Vermont College of Fine Arts (VCFA), linking all areas of practice in the improvement of both academic and administrative outcomes. VCFA maintains an annual calendar of assessments in every area of college practice. At the center of VCFA's annual assessment system are the regular evaluation of student and graduate learning outcomes through a process of mutual evaluation of students by faculty and faculty by students. These provide the essential starting point for the evaluation of academic programs and faculty effectiveness as seen both through internal processes at the program and college levels and the periodic review of each program by outside experts. Individual program findings are integrated into college-wide thinking through each program's annual assessment report to the Academic Council and the Academic Dean.

Additionally, the College maintains a schedule on which managers in every area of administrative practice annually review their activities and outcomes and set new goals. In both academic and administrative affairs, these assessments lead to plans for improvement, and planning is linked to budget when necessary. The Academic Dean and the Chief Financial Officer of VCFA are responsible for the maintenance of the assessment system and for seeing that assessments are productively linked to planning and beneficial change.

The Board of Trustees affirms the importance of periodic assessment in its sphere of activity by maintaining a process for periodic review of the College's mission, and of the President's and the Board's effectiveness in pursuing the organization's mission and strategic goals.