WHY?

• **Most importantly, PAC is committed to continual improvement and consistent attempts at attaining its Vision of best in the nation in Student Success and Performance Excellence!**

• Our accreditor, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), requires that PAC, 1) identify expected student learning outcomes, 2) assess the extent to which we achieve the outcomes, and 3) provide evidence of improvement based on analysis of results.

• The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) also requires assessment of the Texas Core Curriculum, or Texas Common Core (TCC), in order for “institutions to discover, document and seek to improve student attainment of the TCC’s six core objectives.”

WHAT?

• The six core objectives established by the THECB, and adopted by PAC as our institutional learning outcomes/objectives include: 1) Communication, 2) Critical Thinking, 3) Empirical & Quantitative Reasoning, 4) Personal Responsibility, 5) Social Responsibility, and 6) Teamwork.

• The THECB also outlined which courses are responsible for ensuring students become proficient in each of the objectives.

• Every academic year, PAC assesses two of the core objectives using rubrics developed by a PAC committee of faculty, deans, and administrators.

HOW?

• The Coordinator of Measurement & Evaluation (CME) coordinates the General Education Assessment processes.

• The Institutional Research (IR) team selects a random sample of students to assess from all eligible students. The eligibility criteria include: 1) 45+ hours of college-level coursework, 2) enrolled in the previous semester (spring), 3) enrolled in the current semester, and 4) enrolled in a course responsible for the current year’s assessed objective(s).

• Faculty are informed of the sample and are tasked with assigning a “key assignment,” to be embedded in regular coursework for all students, and which is assessable by all core objective rubric criteria. Ungraded key assignments for students in the sample become student artifacts for assessment.

• Faculty attach a completed Key Assignment Cover Sheet to each sampled student assignment. The CME collects artifacts from faculty by either email or hard copy. The artifacts are due the week before winter holiday break.

• During February of spring semester, teams of faculty assessors gather to assess the artifacts using the appropriate rubric. Faculty Assessors are appointed on a rotating schedule.

• The CME records results and reports them to faculty, deans, administrators, and staff in May. Reflective discussions result in actionable improvement strategies aimed at learning and teaching around the objectives.

*Please direct any questions to the PAC Coordinator of Measurement & Evaluation: Julie McDevitt, jmcdevitt@alamo.edu, (210) 486-3735, EO 137.*

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