Multi-State Collaborative Principles

What is the Multi-State Collaborative?

- The Oregon University System (OUS), with consultation from its university stake-holders, has agreed to participate in a national pilot effort to explore a system-level program of learning outcomes assessment that builds on faculty and campus-based formative assessment while adding features to provide for benchmarking at the state and national levels.
- The goal is to find a way to compare the level of learning achieved by students in the various “segments” of the public system (community colleges, universities) with the level of learning achieved by students at peer institutions in other states without relying on a standardized test.
- Efforts are being actively supported and sponsored by the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) through its LEAP initiative and by the national State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) Association office.
- The following states are represented: MA, OR, KY, RI, CT, IN, MN, UT
- The following OUS institutions are engaged as part of the OR team: OSU, UO, PCC, OIT

Guiding Principles

1. A statewide system of assessment should help to build and support a culture of student learning that allows for assessment results to be used by each campus for improving student learning and for program improvement.

2. A statewide plan for assessment should be based upon authentic student work and allow for the use of multiple measures of student learning-indirect, direct, and embedded—without a single mandated statewide test.

3. A common framework is needed for the statewide system of assessment. The AAC&U LEAP Essential Learning Outcomes and Value Rubrics provide such a framework.

4. Assessment approaches should involve an iterative process, and, as such, be viewed as a "work in progress."

5. Assessment is most effective when it reflects an understanding of learning as multidimensional, integrated, and revealed in performance over time.