Assessment Scheme and Mission Alignment

This assessment scheme supports the College of Education and Health Professions (COEHP) mission in preparing professionals based on program learning outcomes and state, regional, and national standards.

The COEHP prepares highly qualified and sought-after professionals who lead with respect, integrity, and compassion and possess the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to improve P-12 student learning, professional health care, and the overall quality of life in our local and global communities.

*Critical assessments are supported by Rationale Statements which document that the assessments are aligned with PSLOS and state, regional, and national accreditation standards.
Program Assessment Scheme Glossary

I. Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs) identify what the student should know and be able to do at program completion. The PSLOs should be verified yearly by program faculty in terms of:

a. Relevancy in today’s environment
   Outcomes must be measurable and aligned with independent third party evaluations and evaluators (I3PEs). Associate Dean for Assessment and Accreditation, 2014

b. Valid in terms of Construct Validity
   To what extent does the evaluation measure what it claims to measure?

c. Valid in terms of Content Validity
   Are the right attributes being measured in the right balance?

d. Valid in terms of Predictive Validity
   Is there evidence that teachers and leaders graduating from highly rated teacher and leader preparation programs are more effective and employable in their field for which they were trained?

II. Critical Assessments are supported by their respective rationale statements. Thus, these assessments result in defensible data with a thread of consistency with the same course over the years regardless of who teaches the course and what venue is used. In addition, they provide evidence that students are, or are not, accomplishing the program student learning outcomes.

The critical assessments must be aligned with the standards as well as the program student learning outcomes. According to SACS 3.3.1.1., programs are held accountable for providing evidence to the extent to which the Program SLOs are achieved.

In some cases, the critical and key assessments may overlap in definition.
Dr. Dawn Frazier, Ms. Lisa O’Steen, Dr. Deniz Peker, and Dr. Joy Thomas, 2014
III. The **Rationale Statements** specify the reasoning behind the critical assessments and how they contribute to measuring the program or course student learning outcomes. The statements also provide evidence that the assessments are aligned with state, regional, and national standards.

Many educator preparation programs require Critical Assessments. Here, each assessment includes a *rationale statement*.

The rationale statement addresses the following:

1. What does the assessment purport to measure?
2. Are the purpose and measure aligned with the rubric? Standards?
3. Indicate to what extent the course assessment directly supports program student learning outcomes.

*The rationale statement will create a thread of consistency with the same course over the years regardless of who teaches the course and what venue (e.g., online and on-campus) is used.*

*Associate Dean for Assessment and Accreditation, 2014*

IV. **Evaluation of Program Viability and Opportunities for Improvement**

Because of the changing environment and publicity about student loans and student debt, the US Department of Education (which manages the Title IV student loans) is demanding more, new data about what the students and their parents are getting for their money, the return on investment. On-going negative publicity is creating significant “common talk” about the value of higher education and raises some serious questions about program viability at the national, state, and local levels.

Colleges of education organize and display data that verify **student learning outcomes** as required and reviewed by accrediting agencies and I3PEs. Thus, critical assessments and the rationale statements support program improvement and help to defend its viability.

We have to be vigilant, professionally, to make very sure we are achieving what we think we are (student learning outcomes). We must take advantage of every opportunity to improve what we do. If a deficiency is recognized in a program, the department chair, program coordinator, and assessment director should be able to identify where in the curriculum the students should have been better prepared and make immediate plans for improvement.
Independent Third Party Evaluation (I3P-Evaluation)

State Assessment: Education Teacher Performance Assessment (edTPA)
Georgia Assessment for the Certification of Educators (GACE)
National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX)
Georgia School Systems and the Induction Process - Educator preparation programs are graded during their graduates first three years of employment in P-12 classrooms.

Associate Dean for Assessment and Accreditation, 2014

Independent Third Party Evaluator (I3P-Evaluator)

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Principle 3.3.1.1 Institutional Effectiveness
The institution identifies expected outcomes, assesses the extent to which it achieves these outcomes, and provides evidence of improvement based on analysis of the results. 3.3.1.1 Educational programs, to include student learning outcomes.

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)
Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP)
Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)

Note
Since the above entities are comprised of member schools and/or members of the profession, some consider these as only semi-independent and/or a peer review.

Associate Dean for Assessment and Accreditation, 2014

CSU Reference
An excellent resource for developing the critical assignments and assessments with the supporting rationale statements are the Annual Program Review and Improvement Reports (IR Major Field Assessment) located at http://ir.columbusstate.edu/assess/apr20122013/ENGL%20APR%202012-2013.pdf.