

## Wabash Study Application

Please respond to the 10 questions below. In addition to your responses, applications should also include a letter signed by your President, Chief Academic Officer, and Chief Student Affairs Officer agreeing to the **process** and **timeline** for the Wabash Study as outlined on our website, including a commitment to allocate \$10,000 for an institutional **improvement budget** to respond to evidence in the Assessment Portfolio that you develop in the study.

If you have questions or would like clarification, please do not hesitate to contact Charlie Blaich ([charles.blaich@gmail.com](mailto:charles.blaich@gmail.com)) or Kathy Wise ([kathyswise@gmail.com](mailto:kathyswise@gmail.com)).

The most important quality that we are looking for in evaluating your application is whether or not your institution is committed to using the Wabash Study as an opportunity to aggressively engage in the work of using evidence to improve student learning. This commitment is far more important than the number of surveys that your institution currently uses or the number of people on campus who are currently involved in assessment. Once institutions are accepted in the study, we will use the information from the questions below as a starting point for our work together:

1. What are the two or three most important things that you would like to gain from having your institution participate in the Wabash Study? (Please feel free to list any ideas, ranging from help with accreditation, to assessing general education or improving retention, to examining the impact of your institution on different subpopulations of students.)
2. Please identify the student learning outcomes that you are most interested in assessing and possibly improving.
3. What programs, departments, divisions, or components of your curriculum are you most interested in assessing and possibly improving?
4. Based on what you currently know, what programs, departments, extracurricular activities, or other areas in your institution have a strong, positive impact on your students?
5. Based on what you currently know, where do your students struggle most? (Include elements of the curriculum and the cocurricular environment.)
6. What structures and processes are currently in place to handle assessment at your institution?
  - What campus governance structures play a role in gathering and using assessment data?
  - Do you have an institutional researcher?
  - Does your institutional researcher support assessment?
  - Do you have the capacity to readily pull data from your student information systems?

- Do you have the capacity to merge data from student information systems with survey data like NSSE or HERI?
  - Do you have a teaching and learning center? Is its work informed by campus assessment efforts?
7. What national surveys or standardized tests does your campus currently use for assessment?
    - If you need experience or outcome data for your Wabash Study Assessment Portfolio, what survey/instrument are you considering out of the choices listed in the study description—i.e., NSSE or YFCY/CSS; CLA, CAAP or the ETS Proficiency Profile (formerly MAPP)?
  8. Have you used rubrics to assess student work? Please briefly describe this work.
  9. What additional campus evidence do you wish to include in your Wabash Study Assessment Portfolio?
  10. Who will be the Campus Leader for the Wabash Study at your institution? You can specify two people for this role if you wish.

Application deadline: July 1, 2010

Please email completed applications and commitment letters to Charlie Blaich at [charles.blaich@gmail.com](mailto:charles.blaich@gmail.com).

We will review applications and select participating institutions by July 16, 2010.