

Chapter XX: ASSESSMENT INTERNSHIPS

Truman State University implemented its first assessment internships during the spring of 2005. It was determined that they would take place only in the spring to begin with so that proper preparations could be made to ensure meaningful and successful experiences for the students involved. The purpose of these internships was to provide students with opportunities to engage directly in Truman's assessment culture and to provide them with academic experiences in the work of assessment. The internships were awarded on a competitive basis and each one carried four academic credits (three pass/fail and one graded). Students were required to have junior status, a GPA of 3.0 or above, and to work ten hours per week on their assigned project.

Three students participated in this first round of internship experiences. Kate Pickett worked on the Interview Project with Jeffrey Vittengl assisting in all aspects of the last year's project from arranging for interviews to coding and analyzing their data. Monica Crupe worked on web design and maintenance with Erika Woehlk; she was able to improve navigation and content of the assessment website, especially the assessment grant pages, as well as to make suggestions for improving advertising regarding the Assessment Colloquium. Marcia Kottemann worked on a history of assessment project chronicling Truman's assessment experiences since the 1970s. The magnitude of her project far exceeded the timeframe of her internship and she continued to work on it during the following summer and fall semesters. She formally presented part of her work at the December 2005 Assessment Colloquium and will submit the written completion of her work in early Spring 2006. So far the program has met with positive reception and varying levels of success.

Reviewing the first year's experience we determined a need to provide more structure for some of the activities than we had initially anticipated. Still, they were, in general, successful and there are currently three more students registered for internships in the Spring 2006 semester.