

Message from Vice Provost Laura Brown

We hope the materials presented on this site and provided through the resources and links listed here will help you meet your own goals as a teacher, through the systematic assessment of student learning.

All Cornell faculty are committed to excellent teaching. We all have ongoing practices that enable us to build on our most successful courses and learn from our most challenging ones.

Thus, Cornell's assessment process is based first and foremost within departments and programs, and within our schools and colleges, where we know that this commitment to teaching is already firmly anchored. Our goal then is to help you, your departments, and your colleges make those ongoing practices explicit, and build upon them in the most natural, direct, and efficient ways.

Assessment can only be successful when it emanates from and is guided by faculty within the departments and programs where courses of study are conceived and articulated. Consequently, assessment practices at Cornell reflect the many, distinctive cultures that make up the university, and are responsive to the diverse, individual structures and processes of our departments, programs, and colleges.

Gathering together the many strains and varieties of assessment across the university, our campus-wide assessment process creates new opportunities for all of us as teachers. I believe that focusing on our commitment to our students' successes in our courses in a systematic way, and demonstrating that this ongoing focus is a core part of our institutional practice, advances our goals as teachers, individually and collectively. Our assessment processes also enable us to communicate with our students, alumni, and other stakeholders about our educational outcomes and accomplishments.

We are prepared to advise you as you participate in this process, and we are also eager to use this occasion to foster a context in which we can share our aims, practices, and challenges. Your comments, advice, and examples are always welcome.

Laura Brown