



Redesigning WASC

ALO Workshop

Small Group Session

2:45-3:15

Focus on Retention and Graduation

Since 2008 WASC has required institutions to report overall and disaggregated data on student retention, persistence, completion, and time to degree; to identify whether overall rates or rates for subpopulations need improvement; and to submit plans and targets. The Task Force on Retention and Graduation has recommended that each institution submit a standard set of data and identify benchmark institutions so that rates are more systematically assessed and targeted for improvement.

Some suggestions for promoting the identification of benchmarks are:

- having each institution identify five comparable institutions
- under WASC auspices, establishing learning communities of like institutions.

What is the most effective way for institutions to identify benchmark institutions? Evaluate the two ideas above and add more.

How can WASC promote improvement in completion rates? E.g., should WASC have specialized teams work with institutions? Hold webinars or other workshops? What else can we do?

How can WASC help to avoid unintended consequences of this initiative, e.g., institutions choosing to improve retention and graduation by raising admissions standards and thereby limiting access? What other consequences should we anticipate?