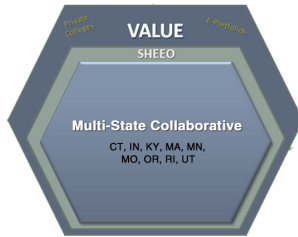


Multi-State Collaborative

to Advance Learning Outcomes Assessment

The State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) and the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) are collaborating on a new initiative that brings together educators at multiple institutions throughout the country using nationally tested scoring rubrics developed through the Valid Assessment of Learning in Undergraduate Education (VALUE) Initiative.



The VALUE initiative involves 67 colleges, community colleges, and universities in 9 state systems as well as a cohort of 9 independent colleges and universities. The project is developing protocols and practices for assessing authentic student work products using a common set of rubrics. It is designed to provide meaningful evidence of students' achievement of outcomes deemed important both to educators and employers and that are central to preparing today's students for post-graduation challenges in a global economy and diverse democracy.

The initiative foregrounds a distinctly different form of assessment than the traditional standardized test. It privileges faculty judgment of students' own work, but also seeks to aggregate results in a way that allows for benchmarking across institutions and states. The primary goal is to provide assessment data that will allow faculty and institutional leaders to improve the levels of student achievement.

The Multi-State Collaborative will develop:

- **A database** with samples of student work, rubrics for assessing students' work, and assessment results that will allow for the benchmarking of students' achievement initially in the areas of written communication and quantitative reasoning;
- **Protocols for collecting and processing data** emerging from faculty assessments of student work products using a common set of rubrics;
- **Methodologies for ensuring high levels of reliability and validity** of the results of using VALUE rubrics to assess cross-cutting learning outcomes;
- **"Lessons learned"** about how to effectively produce and disseminate actionable cross-institutional and cross-state data on student achievement.

The project builds on work done in Massachusetts as part of The Vision Project—an initiative spearheaded by the Commissioner of Higher Education and involving transparent reporting about the outcomes of public higher education institutions in the state. It also builds on the original VALUE initiative launched in 2007 involving teams of faculty from more than 100 higher education institutions who worked together to develop 16 rubrics to evaluate student achievement of a set of learning outcomes developed as part of AAC&U's Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP) national initiative.



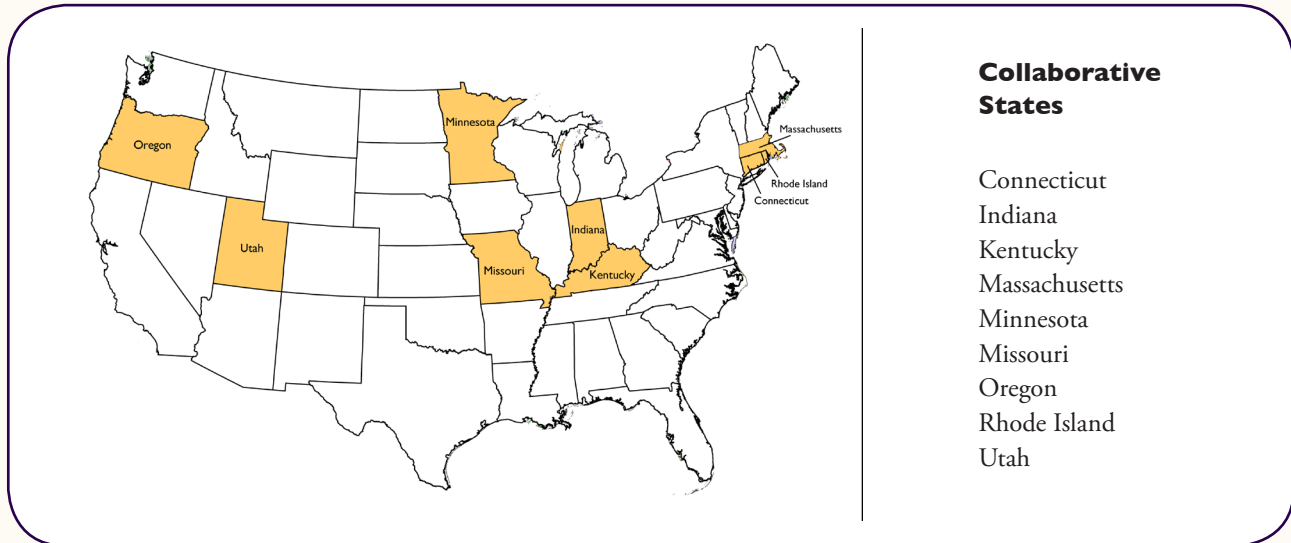
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Nine state systems have agreed to pilot-test the VALUE approach to student learning assessment. State Higher Education Executives in each of 9 participating states have designated a cohort of campuses—including 2-year and 4-year institutions—to participate in the first phase of the project.

Multi-State Collaborative States and Institutions



Pilot Study Participating Institutions

Eastern Connecticut State University
Southern Connecticut State University
Western Connecticut State University
Manchester Community College
Naugatuck Valley Community College
Three Rivers Community College (CT)
Central Connecticut State University
Ball State University
Indiana State University
Indiana University Bloomington
Indiana University East
Indiana University Kokomo
Indiana University Northwest
Indiana University South Bend
Indiana University Southeast
Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis
Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne
Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana
Purdue University Calumet
Purdue University North Central
University of Southern Indiana
Vincennes University
Hazard Community and Technical College

Northern Kentucky University
University of Kentucky
Berkshire Community College
Bristol Community College
Cape Cod Community College
Holyoke Community College
Massasoit Community College
Middlesex Community College
North Shore Community College
Northern Essex Community College
Quinsigamond Community College
Mount Wachusett Community College
Framingham State Community College
University of Massachusetts Lowell
Century College
Hibbing Community College
Inver Hills Community College
Itasca Community College
North Hennepin Community College
Minnesota West Community & Technical College
Minnesota State Community & Technical College
Vermilion Community College
St. Cloud State University

University of Minnesota, Duluth
Southeast Missouri State University
Truman State University
University of Central Missouri
Harris-Stowe State University
Crowder College
Three Rivers Community College (MO)
Ozarks Technical Community College
University of Oregon
Oregon Institute of Technology
Eastern Oregon University
Oregon State University
Portland Community College
Southwest Oregon Community College
Chemeketa Community College
University of Rhode Island
Community College of Rhode Island
Salt Lake Community College
Snow College
University of Utah
Utah State University

The initial year of work in this project is supported, in part, with funding from a grant to AAC&U from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The Multi-State Collaborative is led by SHEEO and supported with a subgrant to SHEEO from AAC&U. Additional funding is being sought to amplify the work of the initiative and extend its reach into future years and to more institutions and states. The original VALUE project was launched with funding from State Farm Companies Foundation and the Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education.