EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

La Trice Small, Director of Institutional Assessment

Office of Institutional Research, Assessment and Analytics (OIRAA)

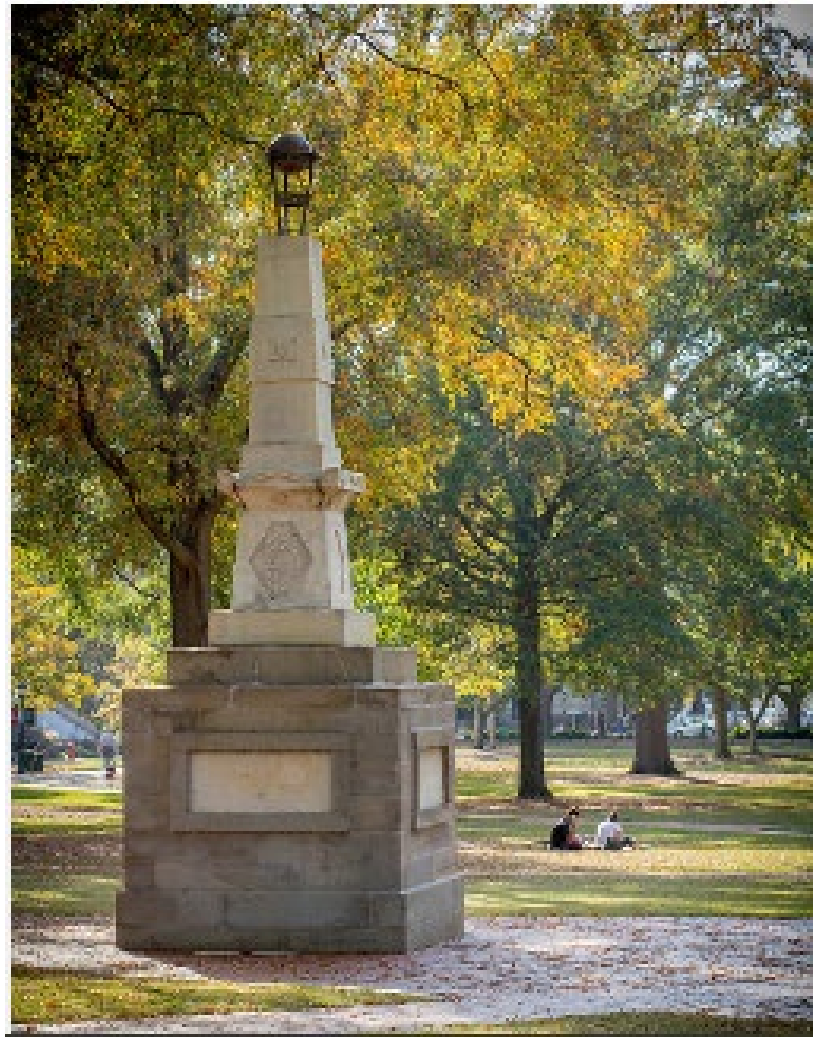
UNIVERSITY OF
South Carolina

WHY DO WE ASSESS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS?

- We care about our students and their learning.
- Assessment aids in improving curricula.
- Academic program assessment is a University priority and policy.
- Assessment is required to maintain the University's SACSCOC accreditation.

UNIVERSITY OF South Carolina

WHICH EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS ARE ASSESSED?



- Undergraduate degrees
- Graduate degrees
- Stand-alone certificate programs
- Online degrees
- General Education (Carolina Core)

UNIVERSITY OF South Carolina

HOW DO YOU ASSESS AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM?

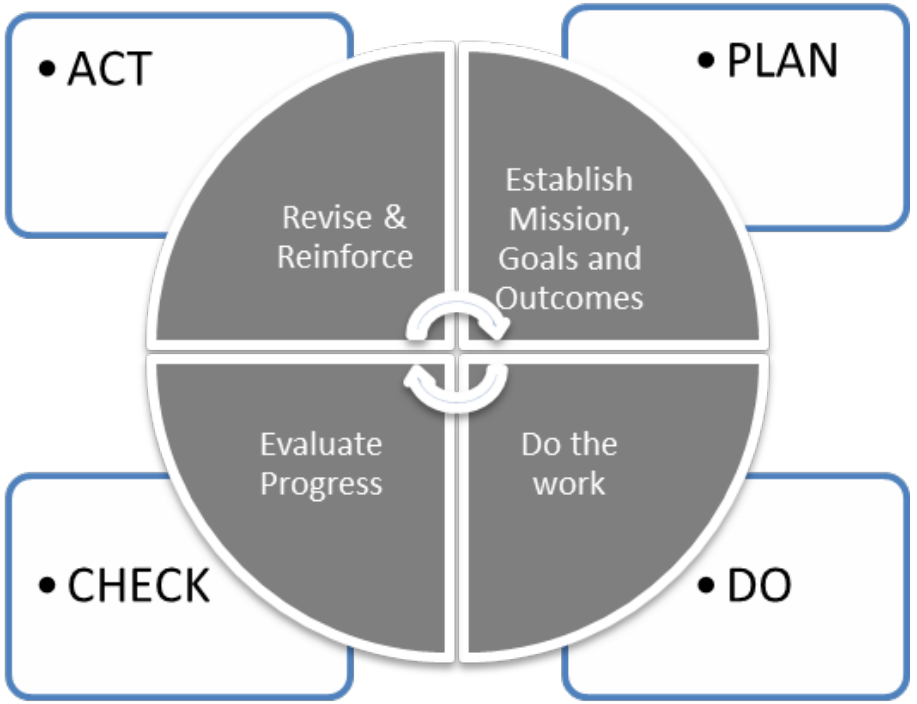
Follow the Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) model

Step 1: Plan - What are we going to do?

Step 2: Do - Let's do what we said

Step 3: Check – Have we met our expectations?

Step 4: Act – Do we need any changes? Where do we go from here?



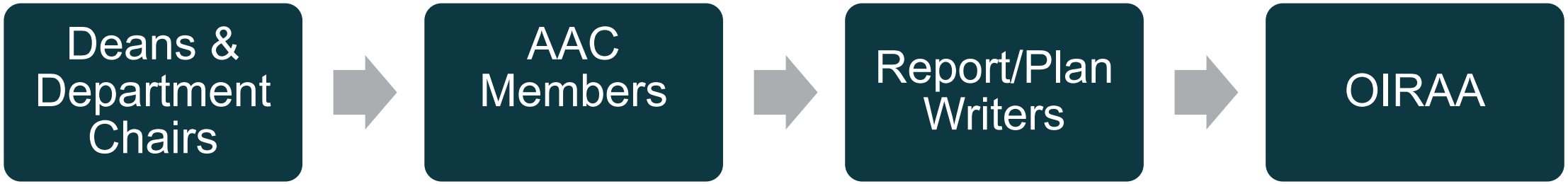
UNIVERSITY OF South Carolina

OIRAA'S ROLE

- Facilitate a systematic assessment process that guides decision making, strategic planning, program evaluation and improvement for all educational programs.
- Review all the academic program assessment reports in accordance with SACSCOC standards.
- Provide feedback on assessment reports.
- Prepare data summaries of student performance on program learning outcomes.
- Approve educational program learning outcomes for the academic bulletins.

UNIVERSITY OF South Carolina

USC'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM ASSESSMENT WORKFLOW



UNIVERSITY OF South Carolina

CAROLINA CORE ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

When will my department assess its CORE classes?

Departments will assess all the CORE courses offered by the department according to the following schedule.

Spring 2023	Fall 2023	Spring 2024	Fall 2024

• Chemistry and Biochemistry
• School of Earth, Ocean, and Environment
• Physics
• School of Music
• School of Visual Art and Design
• Theatre and Dance
	• Anthropology
	• Biological Sciences (contd.)
	• Interdisciplinary Studies (CAS)
	  ○ Jewish Studies
	  ○ African American Studies
	  ○ Film & Media Studies
	  ○ Latin American Studies
	  ○ Southern Studies
	  ○ Women and Gender Studies
	  ○ College of Liberal Arts
	• Philosophy
	• Psychology
	• Religious Studies
	• Sociology
		• Astronomy
		• Computer Science and Engineering
		• Educational Studies
		• English Language and Literature
		• Geography
		• History
		• Languages, Literatures and Cultures
		• Linguistics
		• Mathematics
		• School of Information Science
			• Criminology and Criminal Justice
			• Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management
			• Instruction and Teacher Education
			• Political Science
			• Social Advocacy & Ethical Life
			• Social Work
			• Speech
			• Sport and Entertainment Management
			• Statistics
			
			Other Departments TBD

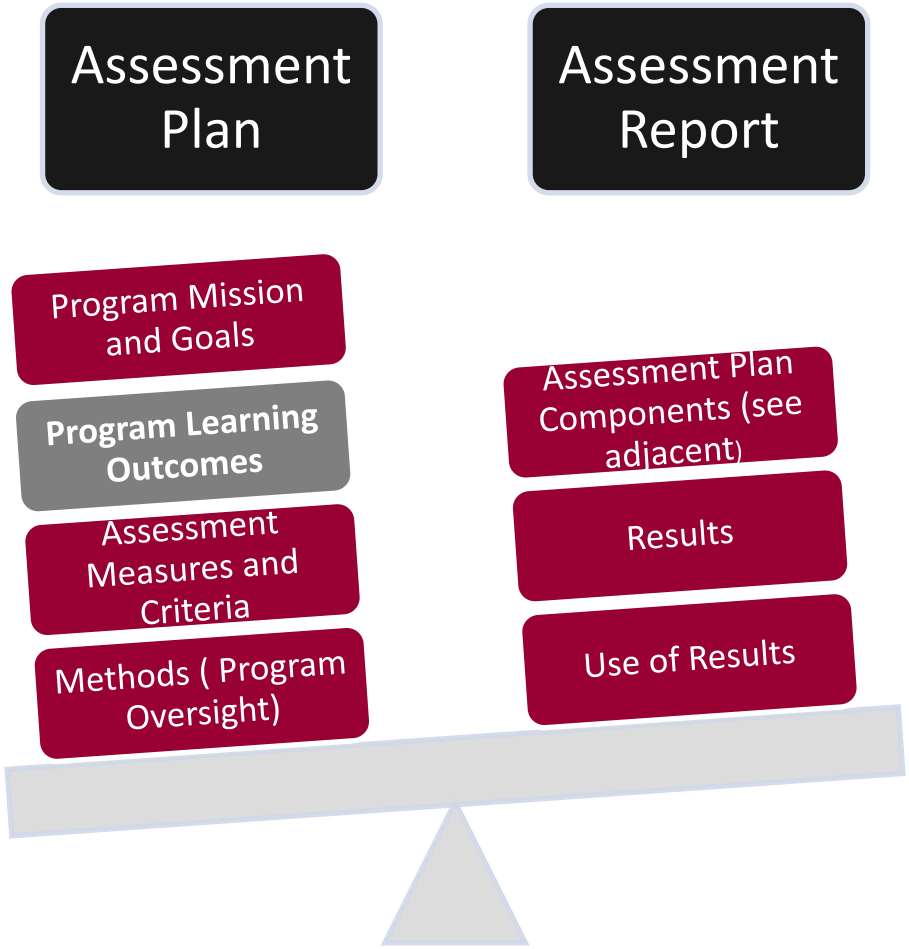
WHEN ARE ASSESSMENT REPORTS DUE?

Group	Future Reporting Dates
Group 1	Fall Odd Numbered Years
Group 2	Spring Even Numbered Years
Group 3	Fall of Even Numbered Years
Group 4	Spring of Odd Numbered Years

- 2-year reporting timeframe (6 academic terms)
- Summer assessment is optional
- Fall reports are due on December 1st.
- Spring reports are due May 1st.

UNIVERSITY OF South Carolina

ASSESSMENT PLAN & REPORT COMPONENTS



1. Programs draft an assessment plan.
2. Implement the assessment plan and document results each semester.
3. Submit a final assessment report to OIRAA for review.

UNIVERSITY OF South Carolina

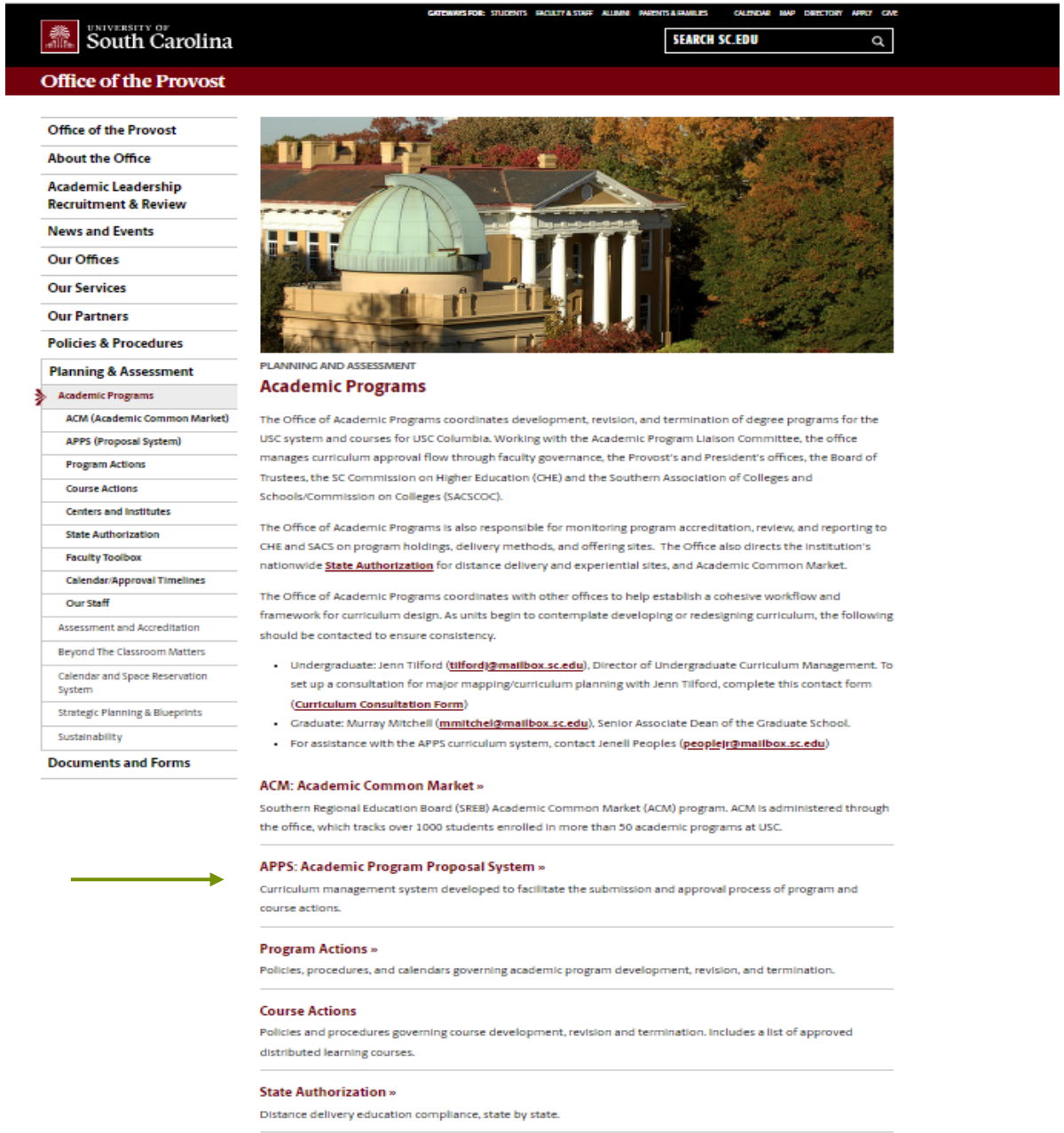
WHERE ARE ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES REPORTED?

Assessment Plan Composer (APC)

- Developed in 2007
- Home-grown application
- Website that can be accessed by authorized plan writers to document assessment activities.
- Procurement effort to replace APC.

UNIVERSITY OF South Carolina

PARTNERSHIPS



OFFICE OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

- Propose new learning outcomes (LOs).
- Make LO changes to existing programs.
- Streamlined process for updating the bulletin.

https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/provost/planning/academicprograms/

UNIVERSITY OF South Carolina

CENTER FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE (CTE)

Scholarship on Teaching and Learning (SoTL)

South Carolina

Center for Teaching Excellence

Engaging Faculty in Programmatic Assessment

Monday, March 11, 2024
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Center for Teaching Excellence
Thomas Cooper Library, Room L511

This session is being delivered in a face-to-face format. You'll need to come to the offices of the Center for Teaching Excellence to attend. There is not a virtual option available to attend this presentation.

https://reg.learningstream.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0023-0015-e1349aa922ef4f8cbb6101d902269368

UNIVERSITY OF South Carolina

RESOURCES

UNIVERSITY OF
South Carolina

ASSESSMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC) MEMBERS BY COLLEGE

Lydia Frass
Arts & Sciences

Jason Beever
Business

Rachel Burns
Education

Jammie Turner
Engineering and Computing

Andrea Tanner
Honors College

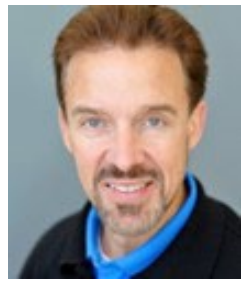
Karen Edwards
Hospitality, Retail and Sports Management

Lyda McCartin
Information and Communications

Susan Kuo
Law School

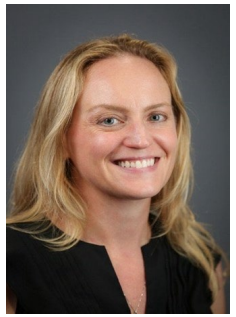
VACANT
Medicine - Columbia

Bill Wright
Medicine – Greenville



Jacob Will
Music

Vanessa Stoquert
Nursing



Christine Rinehart
Palmetto College

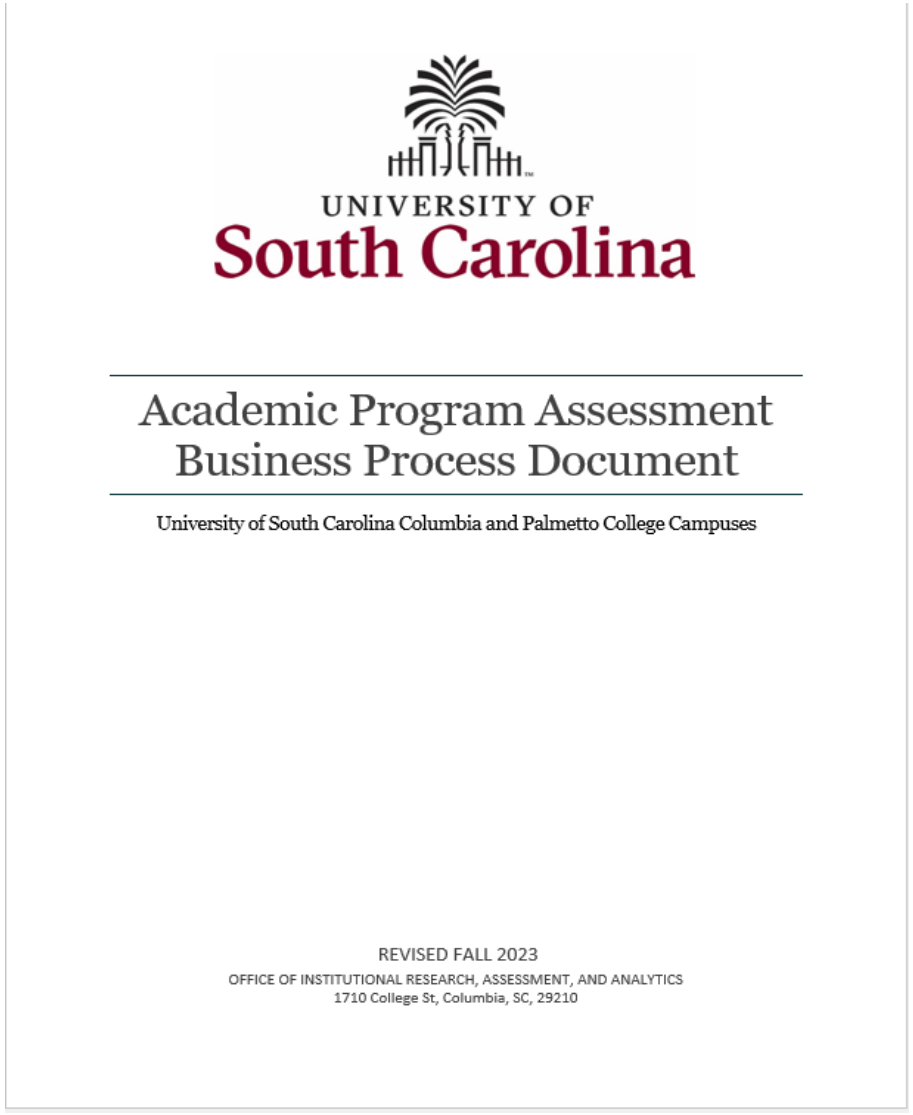
Brie Dunn
Pharmacy

Kollette Clark
Public Health

Terry Wolfer
Social Work

https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/institutional_research_assessment_and_analytics/institutional_effectiveness/assessment_advisory_committee/index.php

UNIVERSITY OF South Carolina



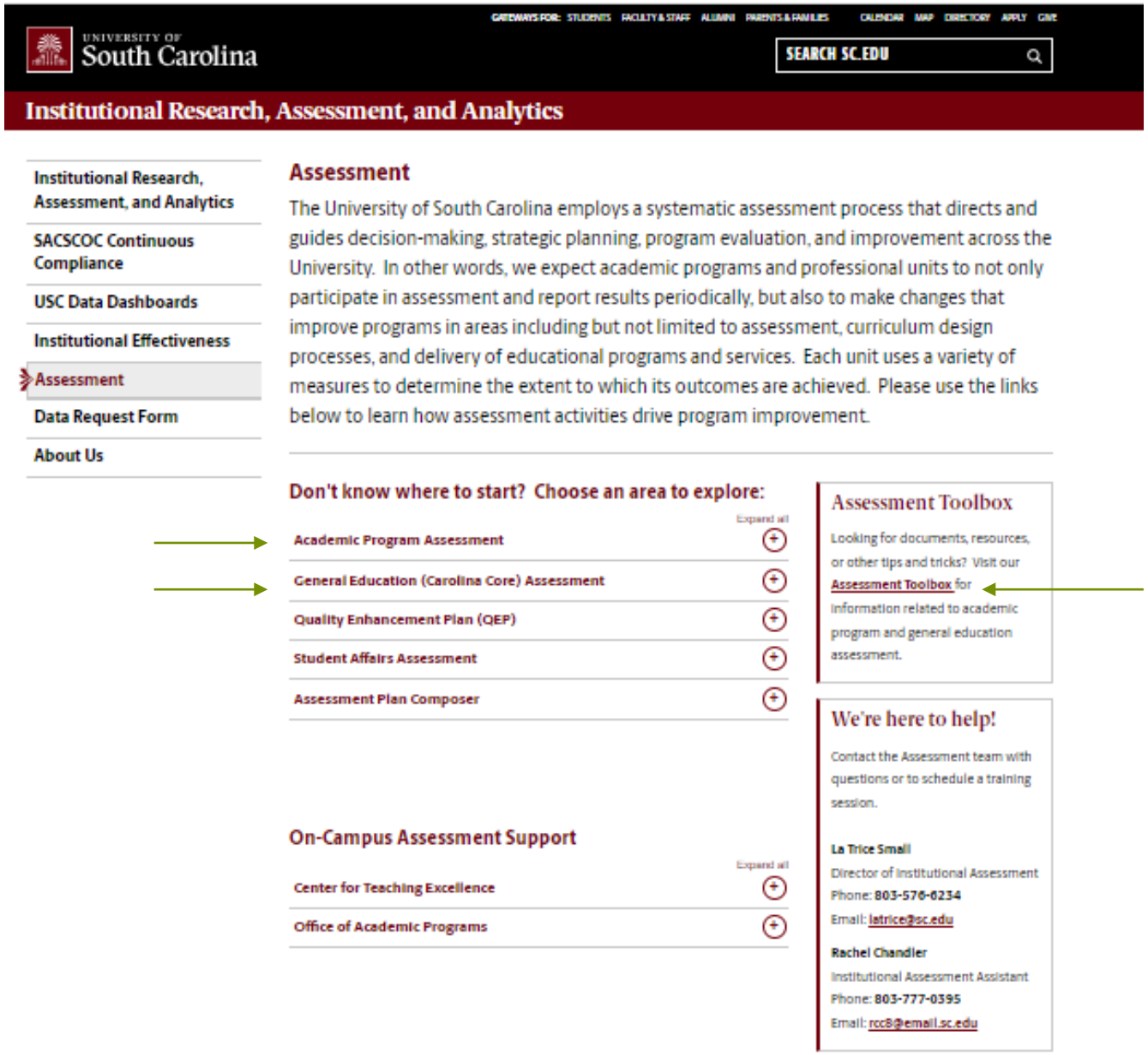
ACADEMIC PROGRAM ASSESSMENT BUSINESS PROCESS DOCUMENT

- Outlines how USC operationalizes academic program assessment.
- Identifies roles and expectations for those responsible for assessment.

https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/institutional_research_assessment_and_analytics/documents/assessment/academic_program_assessment/2022_business_process_document.pdf

UNIVERSITY OF South Carolina

OIRAA'S ASSESSMENT LANDING PAGE



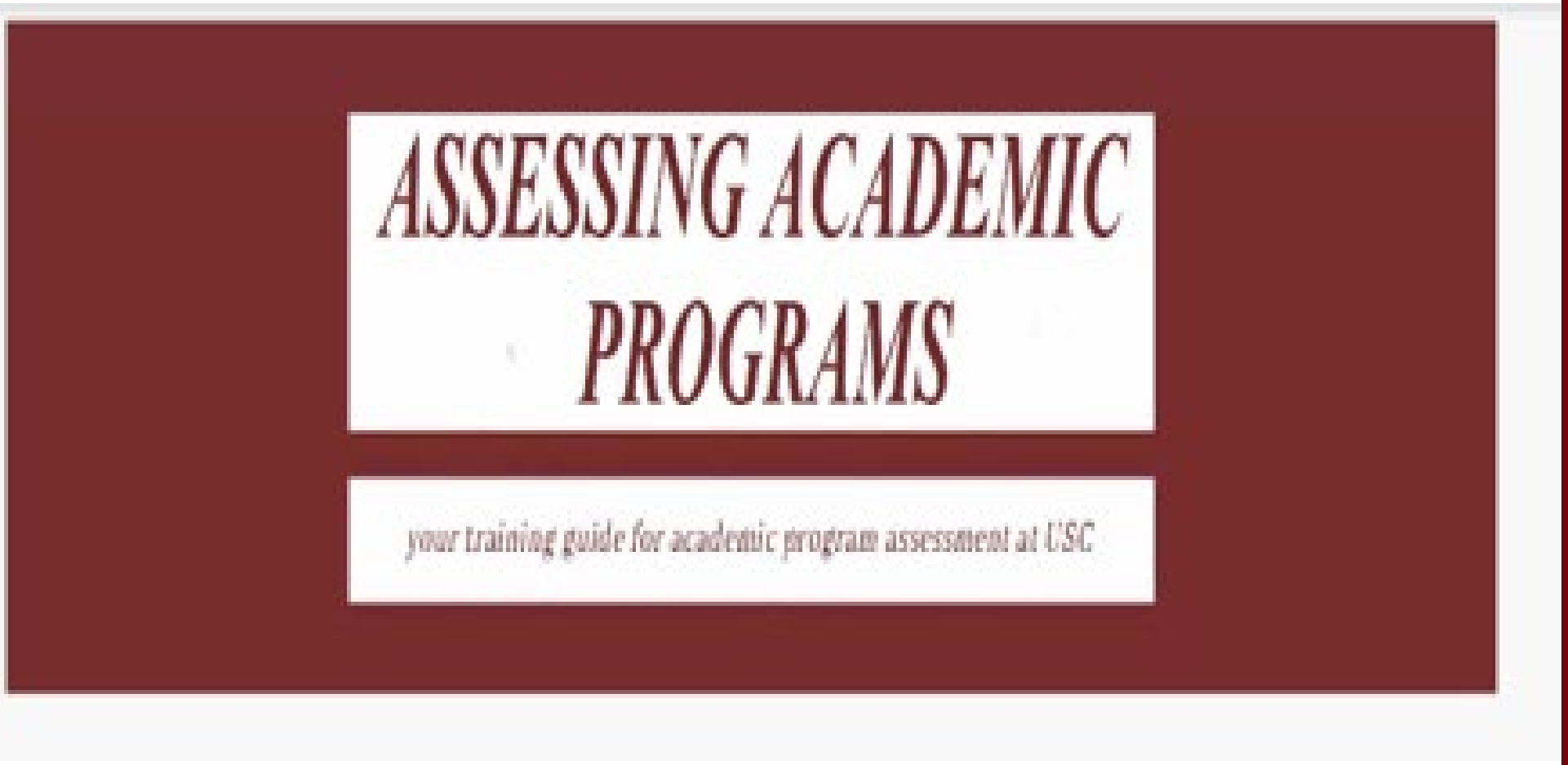
- USC Academic Assessment Business Process Document
- Process for assessing the Carolina Core
- Assessment Toolbox with library

https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/institutional_research_assessment_and_analytics/assessment/index.php

University of South Carolina

ACADEMIC PROGRAM ASSESSMENT CERTIFICATE COURSE

- Endorsed by the Office of the Provost
- Vetted by the Center for Teaching Excellence
- Asynchronous
- Self-paced



https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/provost/planning/academicprograms/docs/instructions_self-enrolling_assessing_academicprograms.pdf

UNIVERSITY OF South Carolina

THANKS!

La Trice Small

Director of Institutional Assessment

latrice@sc.edu

UNIVERSITY OF South Carolina