

IUPUI Testing Center

Organization, Mission, Vision, Values, and Goals

Organization

The Testing Center is a component office in the Division of Planning and Institutional Improvement (PAII) at Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis. The mission of PAII division is to integrate the functions of institutional planning and budgeting, implementation, and evaluation in ways that will continuously improve IUPUI.

Mission

The Testing Center's mission is to provide assessment and evaluation support through the collection and processing of test and course/faculty evaluation data, creation of assessment instruments, and the lending of measurement and evaluation expertise to constituencies throughout the campus community.

Vision

Our vision is to provide integrated assessment and evaluation information in ways that will continuously improve IUPUI.

Values

All Testing Center activities incorporate the following values:

- Work meets the needs of the sponsoring academic unit or individual.
- Results are thoroughly analyzed and explained.
- Work is timely, accurate, and reliable.
- Information is readily available to those who need it, secure from those who do not.

Our staff is committed to maintaining the following work ideals:

- Professionalism
- Responsiveness
- Thoroughness
- Accessibility
- Friendliness
- Sensitivity to data confidentiality issues

Goals

Our Center's goals are manifested through its programs and services that are aligned with the Testing Center's operational objectives, the goals of the Division of Planning and Institutional Improvement, and the aspirations, goals, and mission of IUPUI. The Center's goals include:

1. Working with academic units to administer academic proficiency assessments that facilitate academic advising of students and appropriate placement into courses.
2. Providing exam proctoring services in a monitored environment and a suitable location where students can take independent studies examinations as well as state or nationally-administered tests for use in admissions, credit-by-examination, certification, licensure, or career guidance.
3. Working with academic units and the Placement Testing Advisory Committee to offer outreach testing services that allows more convenience for students to take their tests at remote test sites.
4. Providing optical scanning services to improve assessment practices on campus and facilitate the work of respective campus units. This work includes, but is not limited to administering course or instructor evaluation surveys to assess student perceptions of teaching effectiveness.
5. Developing state-of-the-art assessment technology in support of tracking student achievement and/or in support of contract or grant projects.
6. Developing and/or conducting project assessment or program evaluation studies in a variety of areas including education, health, and human services.
7. Disseminating the results of applied research and evaluations conducted at the Testing Center or in consultation with individual faculty, staff or academic units on campus.

We continually strive to make each program or service unit more complete, up-to-date, and responsive to the diverse needs of the University community.

Howard R. Mzumara, Ph.D.
Director, Testing Center

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Description of Programs and Services

The IUPUI Testing Center provides the following programs and services:

- **Placement Testing and Academic Proficiency Assessment**
Includes administration of *placement tests* in Chemistry, Mathematics, English for Academic Purposes (EAP), and proficiency tests in world languages (French, German, and Spanish) and other course ‘test-out’ exams -- used in providing new students, academic advisors, and faculty/placement test coordinators with data about the achievement levels of entering students for course placement or course ‘test-out’ purposes.
- **National and State Testing (including Credit-by-Examination)**
Provide test proctor services or a monitored test site where students can take independent studies examinations as well as state and nationally-administered tests (e.g., ACT, CLEP, DANTES, PRAXIS, TOEFL iBT, SII, MBTI) for use in admissions, credit-by-examination, certification, licensure, or career guidance.
- **Scanning Services**
 - **Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET) or Course/Faculty Evaluation Services**
Provide optical scanning and paper-and-pencil or online course evaluation services that facilitate the work of academic units in obtaining students’ evaluations of teaching effectiveness. This work includes, but is not limited to, administration of end-of-course evaluation surveys and generation of evaluation reports for purposes of formative evaluation or summative evaluation of teaching, especially with regards to enhancing program evaluation activities and administrative decision-making process (e.g., for faculty promotion and tenure reviews or nominations for teaching awards).
 - **Exam and Survey Scoring and Analysis** – Instructors use our “scanner-ready” answer sheets to have exams scored and analyzed at a nominal cost. Also, instructors obtain customized reports that include test score distributions with (individual or group) exam statistics, alphabetic listings of students, item analyses, and individual student error sheets for instructional purposes.
 - **Forms/Survey Design Services** – Assist faculty and staff in designing “scanner-ready” score sheets or survey forms for instructional or research purposes.
- **Development of Assessment Tools**
Develop Web-based assessment tools in support of the placement testing program, course/faculty evaluation, research and evaluation, and/or for tracking student achievement.

- **Evaluation and Research**

Collaborate with faculty and staff on the design and conduct of evaluations of instructional and curricular projects including those with university/federal/corporate funded research. Also, evaluation consulting services are provided to interested faculty/staff who request to receive individualized technical assistance in the areas of outcomes assessment, instrumentation, data analysis, and in conducting program evaluation.