ACJS Preconference Assessment Workshop Schedule 2025

	Nuts & Bolts	**Current Issues**
1:00-1:15 p.m.	**Welcome**	Combined Room

1:15-2:30 p.m.	Using Assessment to Get What You Want
	    Dr. Tiffany Kragnes
	    Yavapai College
	    Dr. Darin Cygna
	    Moraine Valley Community College
		Wading in the Velvet Sea: Creative Pedagogy for Student Engagement and Formative Assessment
		    Dr. Michael Bush
		    Northern Kentucky University

2:30-3:15 p.m.	Backward Design to Assess Course Learning Outcomes
	    Dr. Lisa Holleran
	    Arkansas State University-Beebe
		Active Learning and Assessment: Tools and Techniques for Evaluating Active Learning
		    Dr. L. Nic Cabage
		    St. Edwards University

3: 15-4:00 p.m.	Making the Numbers Matter: Using Student Data to Document Program Outcome Alignment with Institutional Goals
	    Dr. Nicole Hendrix
	    Radford University
		Utilizing Artificial Intelligence for Program Assessment in Criminal Justice Education
		    Dr. Kimberly D. Dodson
		    University of Houston-Clear Lake

4:00-5:00 p.m.	ACJS Program Review
	    Dr. Christine Tartaro
	    Stockton University
	    Dr. Jay Albanese
	    Virginia Commonwealth University
		Combined Room

5:15-5:30 p.m.	**Presenters' Panel Q&A**	Combined Room

<div align="center">**Nuts & Bolts Abstracts**</div>

<div align="center">**Using Assessment and Program Review to Get What You Want**</div>

Do you like being told no by the administration when you ask for something that will help improve your classes? Ever wonder what is the "magic" of how some programs are able to get academic resources that you know cost money, but you can never get what you request? Unleash the power of assessment and program review to support, and get, what you want.

<div align="center">**Backward Design to Assess Course Learning Outcomes**</div>

This workshop will explore the principles of backward design in education, a strategic approach to course curriculum planning that prioritizes desired learning outcomes. Participants will learn how to begin with the final assessment and work backward to develop lessons that align with specific goals, contrasting with traditional lesson design that often starts with content coverage. We will also discuss how to effectively connect course outcomes to broader program outcomes, ensuring coherence throughout the educational experience. Additionally, the workshop will review various types of undergraduate assessment ideas, providing participants with practical strategies to enhance their assessment practices. By embracing backward design, educators can create more intentional lesson plans that optimize class time and elevate student learning. Join us to discover effective techniques for implementing this approach in your teaching practice.

Making the Numbers Matter: Using Student Data to Document Program Outcome Alignment with Institutional Goals

Institutional data provide a rich source of information for student assessment and program performance. This session will explore ways that student and institutional data can be used to document program outcome alignment with broader institutional goals and initiatives. Workshop attendees will consider how these data offer opportunities for actionable steps to improve program and student success.

<div align="center">**Current Issues Abstracts**</div>

<div align="center">**"Wading in the Velvet Sea": Creative Pedagogy for Student Engagement and Formative Assessment**</div>

This workshop presentation will focus on discussion and strategies about creative ways to approach student engagement and formative assessment. An artificial intelligence interpretation of the song, "Wading In the Velvet Sea," identifies the major themes as exploration and discovery, as well as a desire to connect with something greater than ourselves; a journey through the subconscious mind with strange creatures and hidden truths – a "velvet sea" of uncharted territories of the human psyche. Creative pedagogy can help with both student engagement and formative assessment. Research shows that increasing a student's engagement in their learning leads to higher academic achievement. Incorporating creative elements into pedagogy can increase student's curiosity for how the creative or abstract element will align with practical application. In addition, formative assessment, which refers to the process of evaluating

students' progress towards learning objectives, can assist faculty with providing a scheme for a course, making it easier to identify elements that are effective. Formative assessment also provides a reliable and valid way to measure student success.

Active Learning and Assessment: Tools and Techniques for Evaluating Active Learning

This presentation explores practical methods for evaluating active learning activities and using technology in the classroom. Workshop participants will learn how to use real-time assessment features within various platforms to gauge student understanding, foster collaborative learning, and promote deeper engagement with course material. We also will discuss strategies for aligning these tools with learning objectives and collecting actionable feedback that can shape future assignments. You will leave the workshop with tools and techniques to apply across various active learning settings, from online discussions to gamified classroom experiences. This session is ideal for those looking to enhance their assessment practices with dynamic, interactive learning environments.

Utilizing Artificial Intelligence for Program Assessment in Criminal Justice Education

This interactive workshop explores how artificial intelligence can revolutionize program assessment in criminal justice education. Participants will discover AI tools that analyze student performance, enhance curriculum effectiveness, and track engagement in real-time. Through case studies and hands-on examples, attendees will learn how AI-driven programs can improve feedback, align course goals with accreditation standards, and support adaptive learning experiences tailored to student needs. Ideal for educators and administrators, this workshop will provide practical insights on integrating AI to ensure that programs remain relevant, effective, and aligned with the demands of today's criminal justice field.