



Moving Forward, Focusing on the Positives

Welcome to our first issue of DataVersed in 2023! On behalf of the Learning Assessment Committee (LAC) and the Office of Assessment and Effectiveness (AASPIRE), we hope your spring semester is starting off smoothly with a renewed feeling of things are looking up! We are managing to get through the aftermath of last semester, so let us keep focusing on the positives and new horizons. For those of you who do not know me well, I am a music trivia buff. One song is jumping into my mind as I reflect on the past semester and year, which is by Journey released in 1986 “Be Good to Yourself.” With that said, in this issue we are reflecting on the past assessment endeavors by our fellow colleague, Professor Meghan Carlson, Assessment Committee member from the Math Department. She provides us with valuable insight of overcoming difficult times we encountered in terms of assessment and how her department was able to persevere.

To conclude, we will resume scoring in March until April 14th while also offering professional development sessions about the visualize and engage assignments submitted. Good luck and I hope this semester rocks for you! On behalf of LAC and team AASPIRE we wish you the best!

Jennifer Summary,
PhD Communication Studies and LAC Chair



Jennifer Summary, Ph.D.
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Modded Assessments: A Conversation



Meghan Carlson, M.S.
Professor of Mathematics
LAC Member

Professor Meghan Carlson and Dr. Joe van Gaalen put their heads together to discuss custom, or modded, assessments in math courses at Florida South Western State College. Here's what they had to say.

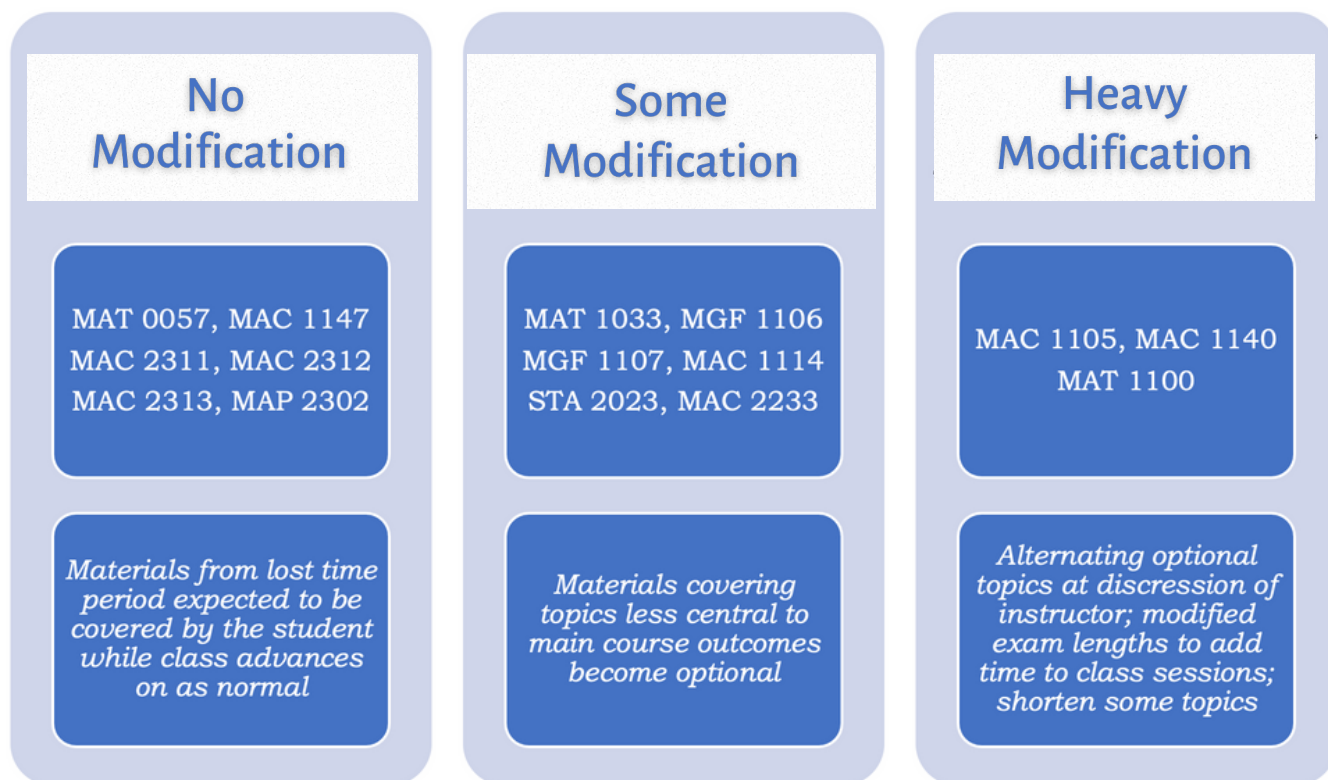
Dr. van Gaalen – It seems as though FSW just can't shake the bad luck. In 2017, FSW was introduced to Hurricane Irma early in the fall semester. That storm brought the College a closure of just a handful of days, but enough to get faculty to have to evaluate the damage in time lost and plan out a revised term for their students. In 2020, FSW along with the rest of the world was introduced to a campus-shuttering pandemic. At this point faculty needed to come to terms with an altered form of teaching and assessment for the foreseeable future. And then, about midway through Fall 2022, FSW was broadsided by Hurricane Ian; a storm which caused enough damage to close

the College for several weeks before returning in an altered form, much like the pandemic, for the remainder of the term.

Mapping out a Plan B for a semester is one thing, but mapping out a Plan B for a semester with several weeks chopped out of the middle of it is another story. Here at DataVersed, we thought it would be a good time to take a look back and catch some of the stories that played out as all of us here at Family FSW clawed back our normalcy. And of course, all of these stories have the word 'assessment' in them.

A quick glance at how the Math Department handled the tremendous change is shown in Figure 1. But to get a better notion of how faculty navigated these circumstances faced by each course we spoke with Professor Meghan Carlson, Assessment Committee member from the Math Department.

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Conversation on Modded Assessments

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Professor Carlson – There was much debate among the mathematics faculty on how we can deliver the necessary course content with minimal disruptions and loss of material. It was decided that we would determine alterations to courses on a subject-by-subject basis. Faculty who were actively teaching a course in that subject, plus those with a lot of experience with that subject, grouped together to discuss what should be done. Should we still administer departmental finals? Should we teach the rest of the content as normal? CAN we teach the remaining content as normal? In broad strokes, it was decided that if any content was to be cut, it should be universally decided what that content should be. For example, in MAC 1105 (College Algebra) chapter 5.1 was now considered optional, and chapter 2.7 may be shortened. If the instructor needed extra time, that would be what they could consider cutting, but it did not mean they could cut content from other chapters.

I myself discussed potential changes with the MGF 1106 (Mathematics for Liberal Arts I) task force. The primary debate was on what could be optionally cut with minimal disruption to the course learning objectives. This course goes over the content in chapters 2, 3, 9-12. At first, there was consideration of cut some of the content in chapter 3 (Logic). Unfortunately, by this point, many instructors have already covered the material from that section. And so, we had to narrow our scope to chapters that would not have yet been taught, and from them determine the least disruptive cut. We ultimately decided that cuts could be made to chapter 10 (Geometry). There were sections of this chapter which when removed, would not deprive students of the learning objectives given in the syllabus.

As shown in the graphic, not every course received cuts, and some courses experienced more cuts than others. Courses further along the calculus sequence, such as MAC 1147, MAC 2311-3, MAP 2302 did not receive cuts at all. However, more foundational courses had greater cuts to allow those students sufficient time to work on the course. Assessments would no longer be departmental, and due to the shorted time allotted for the final exam, the total question count for those tests have been modified by the individual instructors.

I myself am amazed at the work that my colleagues have done here; determining this teaching plan so shortly after something as devastating as hurricane Ian. This work is also reflected in the efforts of other departments. We would have struggled far more without the communications and teamwork of staff, faculty, and administration. I suppose it is true what they say: we are Florida Strong.



Joseph van Gaalen, Ph.D.
Assistant Vice President,
Institutional Research,
Assessment, and Effectiveness
Team AASPIRE

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Presented by
THE LEARNING ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE AND TEAM AASPIRE

Friday, March 31, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

2022-2023 Competency: Visualize Assignments

Friday, March 31, 2023, 11:00 a.m.

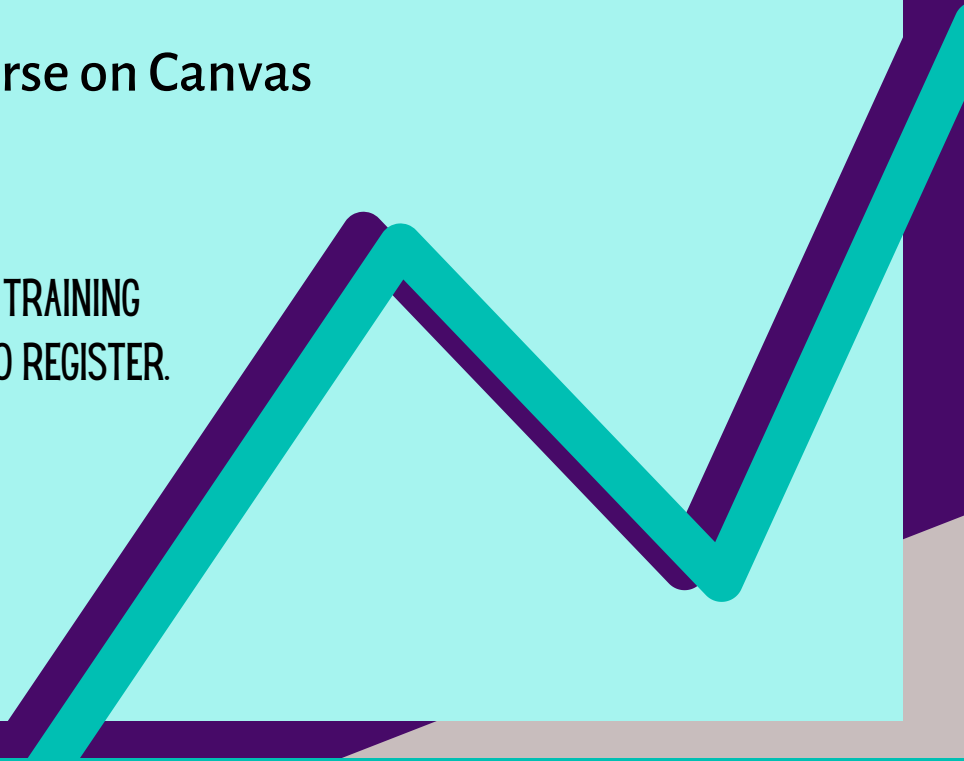
2022-2023 Competency: Engage Assignments

COMING SOON:

Assessment 101 Course on Canvas



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Learning Assessment Committee 2022-2023

Member	Department or Division	Role
Summary, Jennifer	Communication Studies	Committee Chairperson
Barnard, D'ariel	AASPIRE	Ex-officio
Batiato, Dolores	Business	General Member
Cabral, Krissy	Crime Scene Technology	Coordinator
Carlson, Meghan	Mathematics	General Member
Charles, Jane	Libraries	Coordinator
Churchill, Tina	Mathematics	General Member
Conwell, Mary	Paralegal, Arch., Const., Engineering	Coordinator
Donaldson, Tom	Social Sciences	General Member
Godwin, Jessica	AASPIRE	Observer
Harrington, Monique	Humanities	Coordinator
Hester, Renee	Academic Success	Coordinator
Hopkins, Rushell	Computer Technology	Coordinator
Kelvin, Bill	Communication Studies	Coordinator
Marius Coman	Biology/Chemistry/Physics	Coordinator
Mayoral, Fernando	Foreign Language	Coordinator
Minardi-Power, Cara	English	Coordinator
Moore, Colleen	Health Professions	Coordinator
Moran, Kristi	Mathematics	Coordinator
Patterson, Jennifer	Accounting, Bus., Management	Coordinator
Seefchak, Caroline	Education	Coordinator
Seelau, Eric	Social Sciences	Coordinator
Such, Tami	Dean, Health Sciences	Ex-officio
Trogan, Amy	English	General Member
van Gaalen, Joseph	A.V.P., Team ASSPIRE	Ex-officio
Worch, Richard	Criminal Justice/Public Admin.	Coordinator
Zamor, Terry	Mathematics	General Member

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