



Overview

INSTITUTION:

WHARTON COUNTY JUNIOR
COLLEGE

PROFILE:

Wharton County Junior College is a public 2-year comprehensive community college located in Texas.

CHALLENGE:

Find a way to emphasize student learning outcomes, increase visibility into the assessment process and improve collaboration.

SOLUTION:

Wharton County Junior College chose TracDat to make assessment and planning more collaborative and ongoing and to improve learning outcomes.

BENEFITS:

- ✓ Systematic approach establishes a common understanding and language
- ✓ Define and align goals among all levels of the institution
- ✓ Develop, review and revise assessment plan
- ✓ Robust reporting
- ✓ Real time visibility into the assessment process
- ✓ Supporting documents and evidence linked to the plan
- ✓ Propose strategies for continuous improvement
- ✓ Monitor and report on progress

Wharton County Junior College Relies on TracDat for Strategic Planning and to Improve Learning Outcomes

“In the past, some faculty and staff saw planning and assessment as an added chore, not something to move the College forward. TracDat has helped change that mindset.”

Pam Youngblood, Vice President of Technology and Institutional Research

Wharton County Junior College (WCJC) implemented TracDat in 2004 to make assessment and planning more collaborative and ongoing in an effort to improve learning outcomes.

“TracDat is a valuable tool for the College’s strategic and institutional planning,” said Betty McCrohan, President, WCJC. “The application guides contributors to align their program, department, and unit goals to the internal goals and objectives that support the College’s strategic plan.”

Previously, the College used an in-house developed database for planning and assessment. Although the application achieved the College’s goal of moving the planning process from paper to an electronic format, the system had limited capabilities. After a careful review of available commercial systems, the College decided that TracDat had the needed features.

TracDat has proven to be a well-designed structure for the management of the institutional planning and assessment process and facilitates the use of assessment data for improvement of programs and learning.

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Tessa Mathews, Institutional Research Analyst III

“The ease of use and access to the TracDat reporting capabilities has helped to ensure the use and broad adoption of the application.”

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“The linkages in TracDat have made it easier for individuals to understand how their department’s planning and assessment efforts support the goals of the College.”

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Important benefits to the College include:

- ⇒ Department goals and objectives are systematically linked to the Strategic Plan and other institutional initiatives.
- ⇒ The system stores a wide variety of planning and assessment data from all levels of the institution.
- ⇒ Planning and Assessment data is entered and accessed through the Internet making it available both on and off campus in electronic format.
- ⇒ The standard reports provide efficient documentation regarding the impacts that assessment activities have on educational programs and administrative responsibilities.

“Faculty, staff, and administration can enter and access information in TracDat as frequently as needed which has improved the reporting of findings and actions. As a result, it is easier to observe trends and change direction as needed,” said Tessa Mathews, Institutional Research Analyst III at WCJC. “Having the information readily available to the departments encourages them to take ownership of their assessment, analysis, and follow-up. The ease of use and access to the TracDat reporting capabilities has helped to ensure the use and broad adoption of the application.”

“In the past, some faculty and staff saw planning and assessment as an added chore, not something to move the College forward. TracDat has helped change that mindset,” said Pam Youngblood, Vice President of Technology and Institutional Research at the College. “The linkages in TracDat have made it easier for individuals to understand how their department’s planning and assessment efforts support the goals of the College.”

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