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Building an Institutional Assessment Strategic Plan

# A Testing Evolution

# USU Background

- Utah's Land Grant institution (est. 1888)
- 3 Regional Campuses
  - 6 Education Centers
  - 21+ Classrooms
- Comprehensive 2 year College
- Enrollment:
  - 18,069 Fall '16 Logan enr.
  - 14,178 Fall '16 non-Logan enr.
    - Online = 8,928
    - Broadcast = 4,926
    - RC F2F = 3,188
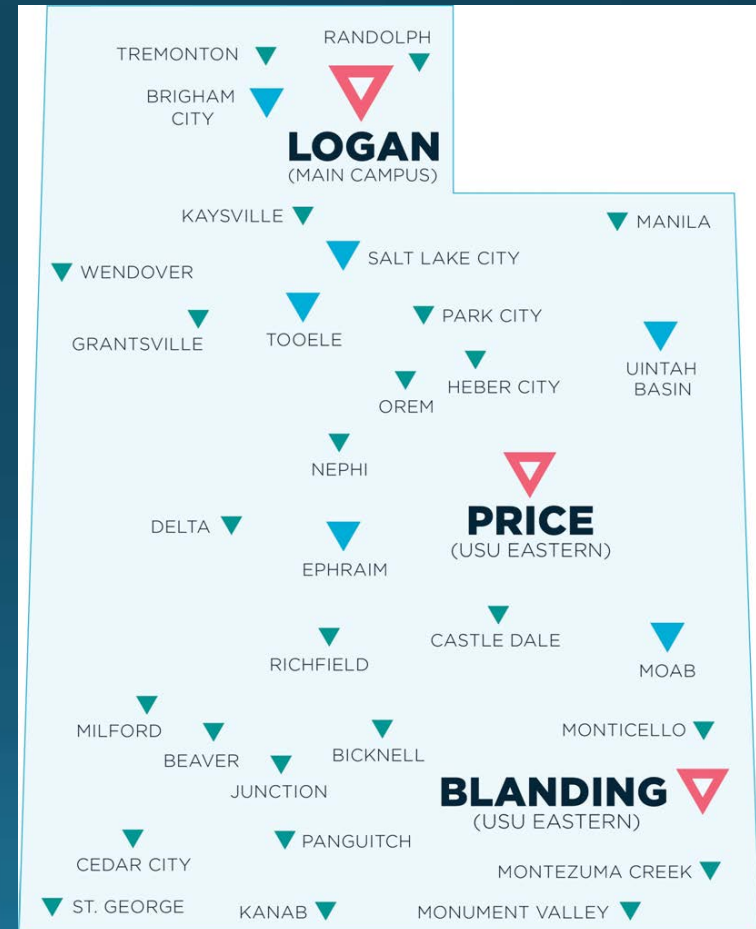
# Institutional Assessment Complexity

- Multiple Testing Centers on Campus
  - DRC, Professional Exams, Entrance/Placement Exams, Academic Testing
- Different Administrative lines
  - Student Services, Academic & Instructional Services (Provost's Office)
- Regional/satellite campuses & 2 yr. College
- Certified Proctors Nationwide for online courses
- Large versus small classes

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# USU Academic Testing Background



- 1997 Began D.E. testing
  - w/ 2 computers
- 2004 Expanded in 2004
  - w/ 9 computers
- 2012 Created Materials & Testing Services (MATS)
  - Database of Certified Proctors
  - Instructors submit materials online
  - Student scheduling system
  - Limited use of ProctorU
- 2014 Moved to new location
  - w/ 30 computers

- 2016 Switched to Laptops
  - 10,500 Tests in Spring 2016

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# External Influences on Assessment(s)

- Entrance exams
  - Graduate (GRE, GMAT, MAT, LSAT, MCAT)
  - Undergraduate (ACT, GED, SAT, TOEFL)
  - Certification (FE, Caslte, PRAXIS II, Comira)
  - Placement (Math, English, Foreign Languages)
- Industry standards
- Publisher assessments (online)
  - Pearson, John Wiley & Sons,
- Competency-based programs
- Online students
  - Live proctoring
  - Remote proctoring
- Student authentication standards
- Costs/Financial Burdens
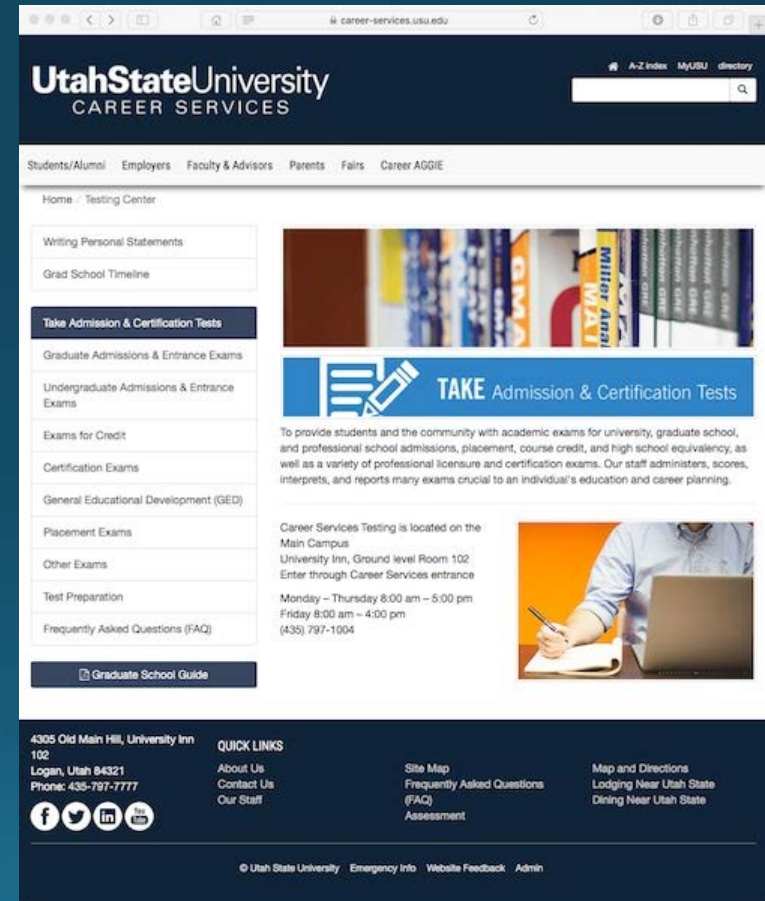
# Internal Actors and Institutional Systems



- Faculty, faculty, faculty
  - Department printing
  - Learning management system (Canvas)
- Institutional traditions
  - In-class
  - Scantron
  - Online
- Classroom limitations
  - Crowded lecture halls w/ small desks
  - Exam security
  - Management of materials

- Athletics
- Varied student schedules
- Unbiased proctors

# Factors Important to an Assessment Strategy



- Institutional-wide buy-in
  - Administration & Faculty
  - Funding for systems & staff
- Technology
  - IT support (computers, cameras, servers)
- Space
  - Location, Location, Location
  - ADA
  - Anticipated demand
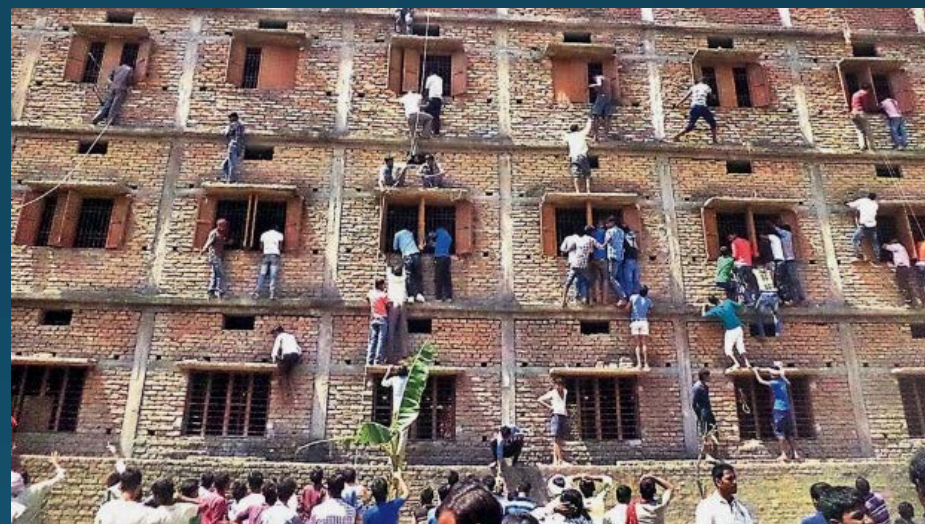
- Student behavior
  - Scheduling vs. walk-in
  - Mid-term/finals
- Faculty behavior
  - Material submission
  - Exam Dates

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# USU's Assessment Strategy

- **In-Class**: Exams given in classrooms during assigned times w/Instructor present
- **Proctored**: Live proctoring of print-based or online exams in campus testing centers
  - No Scantrons
  - Students schedule in advance
  - Faculty submit materials online (MATS)
- **Online**: Non-proctored online exams in the learning management system (i.e. Canvas)
- **Virtual Proctor**: Proctored online exams in Canvas system utilizing a virtual proctoring system, Proctorio, for fully online courses
- Standardized testing experience across all USU locations
- Competency based assessment solutions

# Example: USU Testing Future



- New 200 seat Testing Center
  - DE & F2F Academic Testing
  - Versatile space using laptops & individual seating
- Multiple testing options
  - In-Class
  - Live proctoring
    - Testing Centers
    - Remote Proctors
  - Virtual Proctoring
- Scantrons not supported

# Institutional Buy-in of the Strategy

- Exploratory Committee
  - Determine Demand
  - Propose Policy
  - Survey data
  - Focus groups
- Testing Center Faculty Advisory Committee
  - Representation from each College
  - Review policy
  - Share ideas
  - Discuss unusual requests (i.e. unlimited time or cell phone use)

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EssayFormats.org

# Communicating the Assessment Strategy



- New website
  - http://testing.usu.edu
- Student Senate Presentations
- Postcards
- Video Wall Campaign
- Email Blasts
  - Students
  - Faculty
  - Targeted Groups (e.g. Dept. Heads, Assoc. Deans)

# Implementing the Assessment Strategy: Faculty Participation



- Information Sessions
  - Pre/Post Construction
  - Process & Policies
  - Materials and Testing Services Demonstrations
- ETE Conference
- Department Meetings
- Instructional Designers
  - 1:1 Faculty consultations
  - New course development
- Faculty Senate

# Implementing the Assessment Strategy: Student Participation

- Email Campaign
- Video Wall Campaign
- Day on the Quad
- Portal Ad
- Student newspaper Ad
- Course Syllabi
- Student Guide
- Orientation Video
- Academic Integrity Campaign (planned)

# Q/A

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