The UCA Core and Assessment at a Glance
Guidance for Faculty with Responsibilities in the UCA Core

How do I know if I teach a UCA Core Course?
You should receive emails from UCA Assessment. Your department chair or your college's assessment committee/director should be able to tell you as well. You should also know the pillar(s) to which your course is assigned; the four pillars are: **responsible living**, **diversity**, **effective communication**, and **critical inquiry**. If you teach an FYS (first year seminar) course, it assesses under effective communication (written and collaboration) and one other pillar.
If you teach a Capstone course, it is assessed under effective communication (any two) and critical inquiry.

So, what is expected of me?
Each time the course is taught, a portion of the content should align to and address the pillar(s) to which it is assigned.
- For lower-division courses, 50% or more of the content should address to the pillar(s).
- For upper-division courses, 20% or more of the graded assignments should be related to the pillar(s).

The UCA Core assesses on a 4 year cycle, and in each year, there are different responsibilities/opportunities. (See the table below to determine the specific years for each pillar.)

Year 1: Planning This is the year before a Core pillar is assessed. Familiarize yourself with the rubric and develop an assignment that can be assessed using that rubric. To help you, sessions on assignment design will be provided in the Spring prior to this year that are led by faculty who have successfully assessed this pillar before.

Year 2: Assessment This year, there are two responsibilities. (1) Early in the semester(s) you are teaching a Core course, provide a syllabus and the planned assignment to the UCA Assessment Director. (2) Send the *unscored* artifacts (student work) to the UCA Assessment Director.

Year 3: Tabulation and Reporting This year, the UCA Assessment Director will tabulate the assessment data and report it. You should examine this data to determine how successful UCA students were on assignments across campus. (You may be asked to score artifacts, a paid job over about three days in the summer before Year 3.)

Year 4: Improvement This year, the UCA Core will close the loop by using the assessment data to make improvements in student learning. This will probably take the form of a workshop you can attend to hear about tips and techniques for teaching/incorporating the Core pillar into your classes. These workshops will be directed at specific areas that need improvement.

…*And the cycle starts over again.*

First Year	Next Year	Core Pillars			
		Responsible Living	**Diversity**	**Effective Communication**	**Critical Inquiry**
2015–2016	2019–2020	1. Planning	4. Improvement	3. Reporting	2. Assessment
2016–2017	2020–2021	2. Assessment	1. Planning	4. Improvement	3. Reporting
2017–2018	2021–2022	3. Reporting	2. Assessment	1. Planning	4. Improvement
2018–2019	2022–2023	4. Improvement	3. Reporting	2. Assessment	1. Planning
FYS Courses are assessed with Effective Communication (written and teamwork) and one other pillar. **Capstone Courses** are assessed with Effective Communication (any two) and Critical Inquiry.					