

## The ALTS answer for colleges and universities

The *No Child Left Behind* legislation enacted at the federal level has brought accountability to the forefront of American education in a way that this country has never experienced before. It requires that all states ensure that *every child in every public school* achieves a minimum threshold of learning. In order to accurately evaluate student achievement, assessments of high quality are required.

The impact of these trends in K-12 education is already clearly visible in the requirements that need to be satisfied in order for colleges to receive accreditation from their specific accreditation agencies. The need for high quality assessments has already been espoused in writing by the American Association of Colleges and Schools of Business (AACSB) for colleges of business, and by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education Programs (NCATE) for teachers' colleges and colleges of education.

In order for professors to preserve their autonomy they must be empowered to develop high quality assessments. Unless the assessments that professors use exhibit specific hallmarks of quality, the results are unacceptable for the purpose of reporting to their accreditation agency.

The problem is that most professors have not had even a single course focused on educational assessment; therefore, even professors who are well-equipped to teach subject-matter content are often ill-equipped to assess whether their students are learning.

The ALTS solution provides professors with the information and skills to develop assessments of the highest quality. We deliver informative workshops filled with relevant hands-on activities. We also provide innovative, user-friendly software – the **ALTS Assessment Management System** – for collecting validity evidence, and documenting cut scores and information about the reliability and fairness of test scores. This software tool facilitates the development of excellent quality assessments while simultaneously making the often cumbersome, test development and validation process manageable.

As colleges and universities prepare for reaccreditation audits and simultaneously strive to provide fertile learning environments, tools like the **ALTS Assessment Management System** are sure to become invaluable, must-have applications for developing and validating assessments using a scientifically acceptable process.

Only assessments with low measurement errors should be used when making high stakes decisions such as awarding academic credentials, scholarships and jobs. Progressive colleges have already begun using technology to deliver online assessments, but have not provided professors with tools to readily know whether their assessments are of high quality.

The **ALTS Assessment Management System** empowers professors to deliver assessments online, and to readily know whether their assessments are of high quality. Furthermore, it helps professors know what they should do in order to improve the quality of ineffective questions, and poor overall assessments.

At this time in the history of US education, professors need the ALTS solution to be able to manage the assessment creation process, produce reliable scores, and make valid decisions. Anything less is unacceptable.