

Summer is a great time to catch up on projects, get a breather from the daily academic year routine, take some time to yourself, and rejuvenate through professional development. We often get asked by our members where they can go to build up their assessment toolkit as part of their professional development plans. For student affairs professionals, there are two summer options designed specifically for you: The [ACPA Student Affairs Assessment Institute](#) and the NASPA [Assessment and Persistence Conference](#).

These options provide two distinct experiences tailored to fit different assessment needs in our student affairs community. Here is a guide to help decide which experience is right for you:

The **ACPA Student Affairs Assessment Institute** is being held June 26-28 at the Red Lion in On the River in Portland, OR.

- Institutes are **curriculum based** experiences **designed by a team of experts** and **facilitated by a team of faculty** selected because of their specialized skills set in student affairs assessment
- Because it is curriculum based, the Institute provides guided instruction meant to teach specific assessment skills and provide resources that can be used on campus
- At institutes, your day is structured around specific learning outcomes and has a final goal of you leaving with an “end product” (e.g., an assessment plan at the program level or a plan for how to begin/move forward at the divisional level)
- There are two tracks in the ACPA Assessment Institute:
  - Program-level track – teaches basic assessment skills that can be utilized by anyone new to assessment who wants to learn how to carry out an assessment project from start to finish.
  - Division-level track – teaches “bigger picture” assessment skills that are needed in order to plan institutional, division, or department-wide assessment systems and processes, including building a culture of assessment

The **NASPA Assessment and Persistence Conference** is being held June 27-29 in Denver, CO. T

- This conference is designed for people with various assessment skills and levels.
- Because it is conference-style, sessions are selected via an open call for proposals and provide a wide array of topics based on the proposals received
- Educational sessions may focus on sharing best practices, exploring emerging issues related to assessment, assessing student learning, building skills and improving retention/persistence at our institutions.
- In conference style, the day has more open sessions to choose from, and sessions are led by professionals who have submitted proposals for the conference.

Check out their websites for more information and we hope to see you this summer!