



Implementing CAS Undergraduate Research Standards for Assessment

Abstract

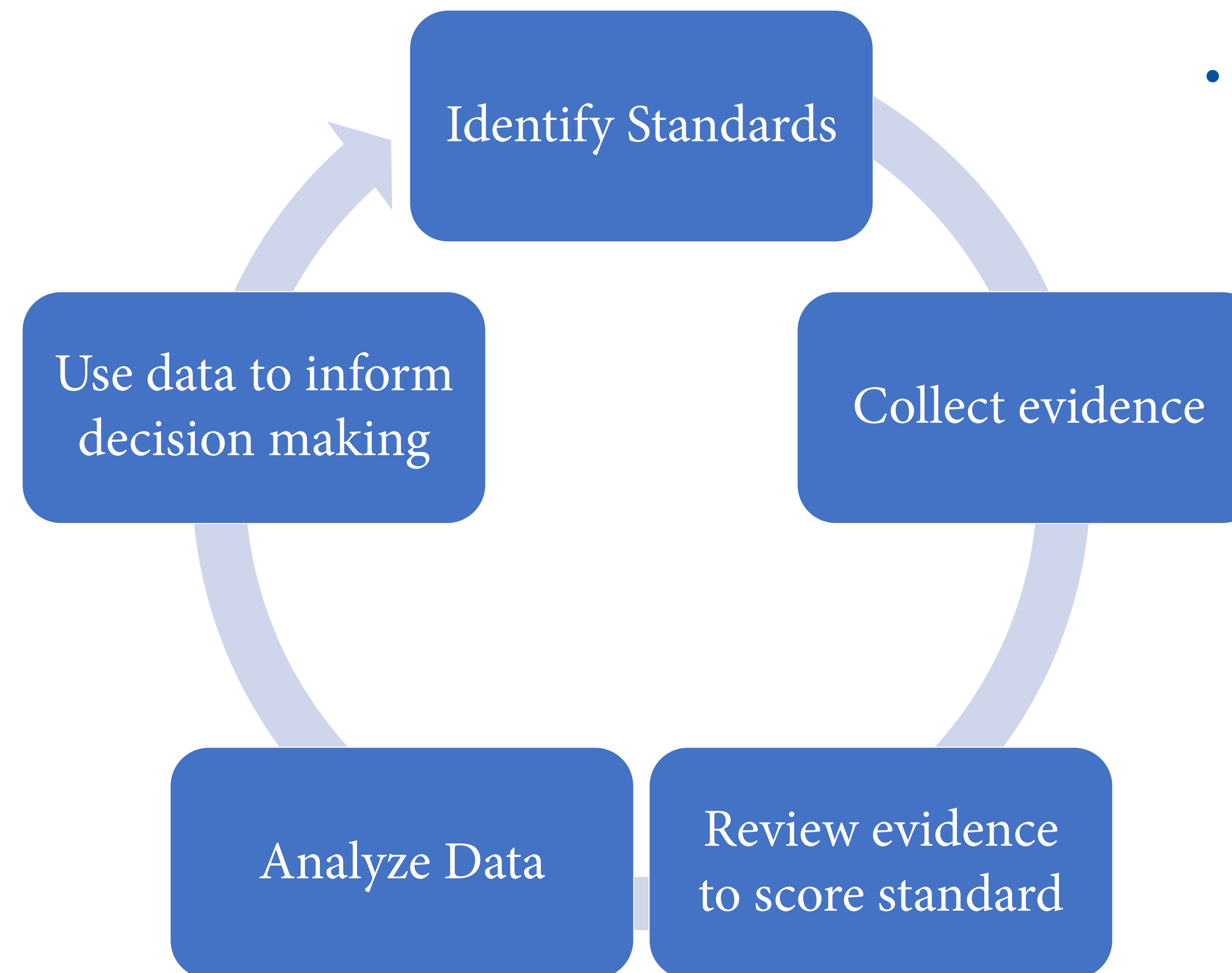
The Council for Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS) recently released specialized standards for assessing undergraduate research programs (URPs) including self-assessment instruments and tools for developing and implementing action plans. These standards align with the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) strategic pillars and include twelve primary parts: (1) mission, (2) program, (3) organization and leadership, (4) human resources, (5) ethics, (6) law, policy, and government, (7) diversity, equity, and access, (8) internal and external relations, (9) financial resources, (10) technology, (11) facilities and equipment, and (12) assessment. This project outlines the process of and lessons learned from the first phase of implementation of these standards within an Office of Undergraduate Research.

CAS Standards

CAS was formed to bring standards to assessment for higher education functional areas. It established common programmatic elements, CAS General Standards, that can be used across functional areas for assessment (2015). Additionally, CAS works with national organizations such as CUR in the development of self-assessment guides to use the framework for a specific function. In 2015 *CAS Self-Assessment Guide for Undergraduate Research* was released to provide UR programs assessment process.

CAS General Standards	
Mission	Diversity, Equity, & Access
Program	Internal & External Relations
Organization & Leadership	Financial Resources
Human Resources	Technology
Ethics	Facilities & Equipment
Law, Policy, & Governance	Assessment

The Process



Year 1 Standards Reviewed

- Mission
- Program
- Assessment
- Internal & External Relations
- Diversity, Equity, & Access
- Financial Resources

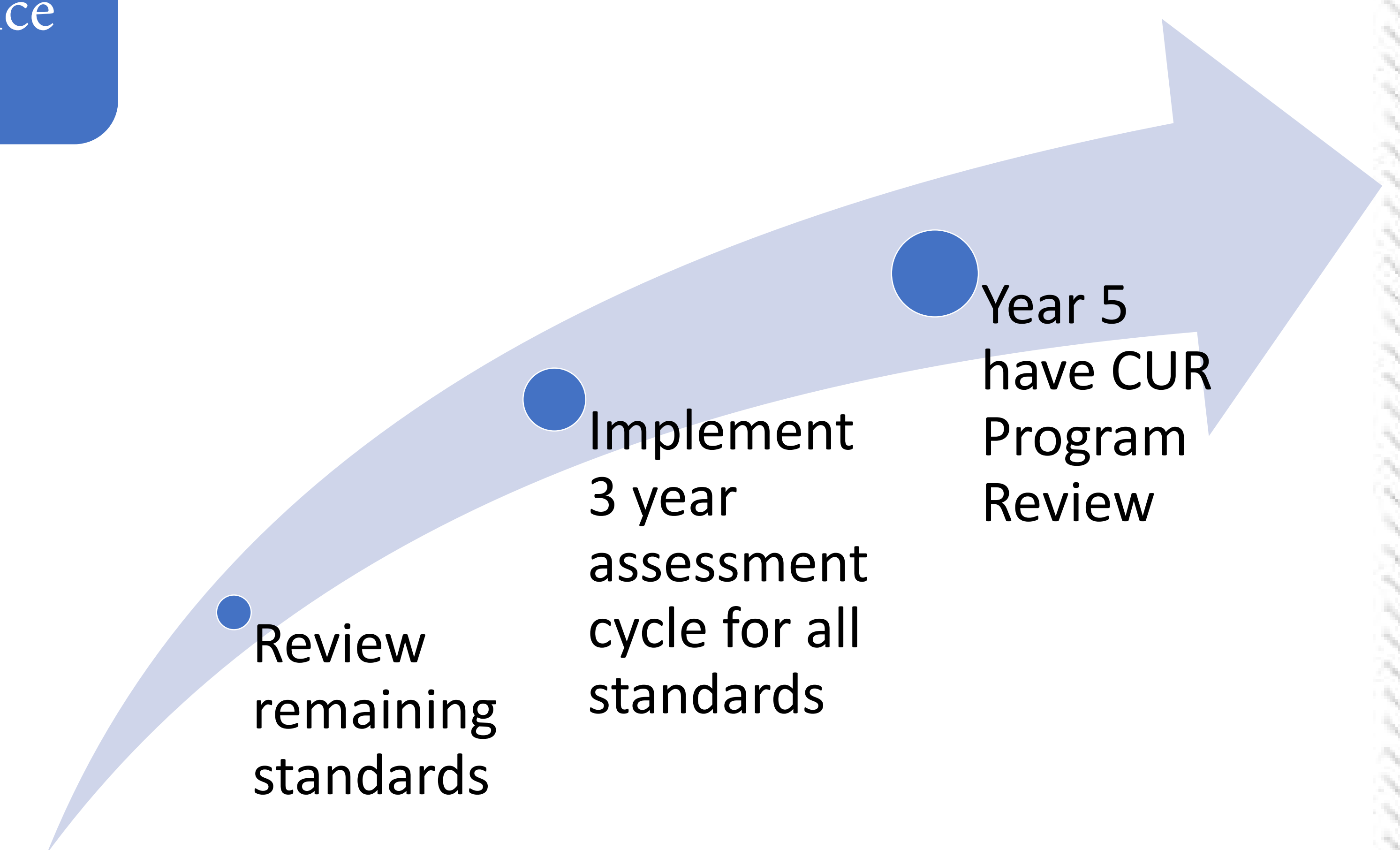
Year 2 Standards Review

- Organization & Leadership
- Human Resources
- Ethics
- Law, Policy, & Governance
- Technology
- Facilities & Equipment

Lessons Learned

- Understand institutional politics
- Involve campus partners in the review committee
- Be intentional with what CAS Standards you review
- Assessment is an ongoing process and should become part of office culture
- Utilize to develop a benchmark for strategic planning

Year 2 & Beyond



References

Council for the Advancement of Higher Education. (2015). *CAS self-assessment guide for undergraduate research programs*. Washington D.C.

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