

Guiding Questions: Program SLO Results and Discussion

The following questions should encourage discussion among faculty members following data collection. Make a record of the conversations that follow and make note of any changes to the assessment in the “results” and “actions taken” portions of your Outcomes Assessment Plan.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Were the SLOs that were assessed core outcomes for the program? Did they describe the kind of analytic/critical thinking, skills, or abilities that the discipline feels all successful students should take away from the program?
- Were students made aware of these SLOs prior to the assessment and if so, how?

Assessment Instrument:

- Did the assessment questions or assignments assess the SLOs? Did student performance on these provide strong information about how well students achieved the SLOs?
- Were the assessment questions or assignments clearly worded?
- Do classroom experiences align with or support the intended program outcomes and the assessment so that students are prepared to succeed?
- For assessment questions that weren't objective in nature, was the assessment rubric clear and easy to apply?
- Did the assessment adequately reflect the standards that your discipline adheres to?

Assessment Process:

- Was communication about the expectations of the process clear and early enough to all instructors who participated in the full-scale implementation?
- Was the assessment administered with reasonable uniformity across all sections (e.g., approximately the same time frame of the semester, similar expectations communicated to students, etc...)?
- Did instructors understand how to enter and aggregate data according to department protocols?
- Were there students who were not assessed? Are the numbers of non-assessed students a significant factor in the overall success of the program being assessed?

Assessment Results:

- How do the results relate to the stated criteria for success? Were expectations met or not and to what extent did the results exceed or miss the target for success?

- What do the assessment results say about how well all students, or particular subgroups of students, achieve the intended program SLOs?
- What overall key findings can you draw from the results? Are there significant patterns or trends in the data?
 - For students who met or exceeded expectations, were there circumstances that allowed them to succeed?
 - For students who did not meet expectations, what circumstances affected their performance?
 - Were there some elements that students performed well on and others that they did not?
- Is there any additional analysis of the existing data that might provide greater insight into the meaning of the results?