

Criteria for Evaluating Academic Program Assessment

Who, What, When, Where, and Why?

Who is responsible for assessment of student learning?

Faculty assess every undergraduate major, graduate program and stand-alone certificate.

What is evaluated in determining assessment effectiveness?

- **Program Learning Outcomes:** Are the PLOs clear, measurable, meaningful and descriptive of exit-level learning?
- **University Learning Outcomes:** Are the PLOs aligned with the University Learning Outcomes (at least one PLO for each of the University Outcomes)? Is the PLO for Christian Faith *explicit* about Christian Faith?
- **Curriculum Map:** Does the curriculum map list all PLOs, and indicate where they are introduced, developed, and assessed at the exit-level of learning in required courses? Does the map demonstrate that curricula provide a progression of learning building toward the end of the program?
- **Tools:** Are described student experiences, assignments and faculty evaluation tools effective?
- **Data/Analysis:** Is direct measurement of student learning that occurred during the report year collected, analyzed and reported?
- **Recommendations/Changes:** Are recommendations for changes described, agreed on by the department and implemented?
- **Impact:** Is there evidence that changes implemented in prior years improved student learning?
- **Collaborative Work:** Is there evidence that faculty/staff are working together?
- **Overall Goal:** Has assessment improved student learning and the quality of this program during this academic year?

When do departments submit reports?

Programs submit annual reports for the preceding academic year by October 1. For example, academic year 2023-2024 reports are due October 1, 2024. Programs can use the results of their assessment work in program changes submitted to APRST by November, and in the strategic planning cycle. Other annual assessment activities include the Program Assessment Leader Roundtable each August and Assessment Leadership development sessions each winter.

Where is current information located?

To locate the current reporting process and instructions, search for “Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes” on the portal. This information is also on the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT) “page” on the portal. Instructions are sent to all department chairs, program directors and deans each spring.

Why do we do assessment?

To determine if curricula and instruction are meeting program goals, and to employ a continuous process to improve student learning and the quality of the academic program.

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