

LEARNING ASSESSMENT BULLETIN

READ AND SAVE!

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE
LANEY COLLEGE LEARNING ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE
APRIL 9, 2008
PART 1

Yes, you do need to know this!

Part-time, Full-time, Faculty, Staff – anyone who works at Laney should be familiar with student learning outcomes and their assessment.

Many instructors have heard of SLOs before and have even written SLOs for their courses. However, it is distressing to note that even after all of the e-mails, flyers, and workshops given during flex days, there are still instructors who are unfamiliar with SLOs.

Did you know?

- Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) and their assessment are closely linked to accreditation.
- Any community college that does not have SLOs for its courses and programs will not be accredited.
- SLOs for courses should be written by instructors (full-time AND part-time) in consultation with the rest of their department.

Why should you care about SLOs?

- The first and most urgent reason is that if our college is not accredited, we no longer have jobs.
- The second and more interesting reason is that developing SLOs and assessing the SLOs is a **powerful way to improve student learning!** (In fact, this is why the accrediting commission is now requiring SLOs and assessment.)

Why should part-time instructors care about SLOs?

- We can't do it without you! We need your opinions, thoughts, and expertise.
- All California community colleges are required to develop SLOs and assess them. Therefore, if you are a part-time instructor trying to get a full-time job, having experience writing SLOs and assessing those outcomes will make you a desirable candidate (no matter which school is doing the hiring).

What is actually required regarding SLOs and Assessment?

- Each course (English 1A, Math 3A, etc.) must have a common set of student learning outcomes.
- Each program that leads to a degree or certificate must have a set of outcomes. Student services programs must also have outcomes.
- Each course or program outcome must be assessed. Outcomes can be assessed by examining student work (such as papers, projects, presentations, performances, selected exam questions, surveys, and reflective writing samples).
- Assessment results must be discussed within the department and reported.
- Assessment results must lead to changes and improvements in courses and programs.

More information to follow. Stay tuned.

Resources:

Learning Assessment Committee Website:

<http://www.laney.peralta.edu/learningassessment>

How To Write SLOs Website:

<http://www.laney.peralta.edu/SLOs>

SLO and Assessment Reporting Forms:

<http://www.laney.peralta.edu/SLOforms>

Have questions? Need help? Contact Cheli Fossum, 464-3272 or

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Cheli is available and would love to meet with you and/or your department to train instructors and staff on developing SLOs and assessing those outcomes.