

LEARNING ASSESSMENT BULLETIN

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE LANEY COLLEGE LEARNING ASSESSMENT
COMMITTEE

ISSUE 4 – MAY 2007

Progress on SLOs

Recently, we were required to inventory and report how many courses had developed student learning outcomes. To our surprise, we found that 20% of the “active” courses at Laney have SLOs. (“Active” courses were defined as those courses that were in the schedule for either Fall 2006 or Spring 2007, whether or not they were subsequently cancelled.)

This is because some departments have completed more than the minimum number of SLOs. Departments that have completed SLOs for *more than one course* are:

Architecture (4), African-American Studies (2), Anthropology (5), Biology (13), Business (3), Carpentry (8), Chemistry (7), Coop Ed (6), Cosmetology (2), Counseling (8), E/ET (2), Economics (2), ECT (4), ESL (11), Graphic Arts (4), History (2), Labor Studies (2), Machine Tech (2), Math (19), Media (4), PE (5), Physics (5), Political Science (3) and Welding (4). *Special thanks to all departments that completed more than they were asked to do!*

General Education Outcomes

On April 26, there was a college-wide retreat to discuss and decide on general education outcomes for Laney College. The vocational group had a discussion of outcomes appropriate for vocational certificates. The

group decided that the Mesa Community College model was appropriate. The participants in the academic break-out group decided to adopt a version of Cabrillo College’s Core Competencies as our GE outcomes for AA/AS degrees. We will use the Cabrillo outcomes as a draft, and modify them to fit Laney College. This includes changing the wording of the outcomes and adding or removing outcomes from Cabrillo’s list. To see these outcomes, go to the Laney Learning Assessment Committee website (<http://www.laney.peralta.edu/learningassessment>), click on “Documents”, and then look in the “General Education Outcomes” folder. *We would like you to suggest changes and improvements to the wording of these outcomes, especially in your area.* We will be accepting comments until May 29 for the second draft of our GE outcomes.

Timeline for Assessment Tasks

The Learning Assessment Committee, after a great deal of discussion and deliberation, came up with a proposed timeline for outcomes and assessment tasks. The timeline takes into account where we are in the accreditation cycle and where we want to be when the visiting team arrives at Laney. This proposed timeline was developed in our committee in March, discussed in the Faculty

Want to learn more? Highly recommended: *Assessing Student Learning in Community Colleges* (2004) – an online course or downloadable workbook for various topics and hands-on work in assessment. <http://online.bakersfieldcollege.edu/courseassessment/>

Also check out the Learning Assessment Committee website:

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

To navigate to the LAC website from the Laney website, click on Instructional Programs:

Shared Governance: Committees: Learning Assessment Committee

“How to write SLOs” website: <http://www.laney.peralta.edu/SLOs>

Senate meetings on April 17 and on May 1, and was endorsed by the Faculty Senate on May 1, 2007. This timeline can be viewed on the Laney Learning Assessment Committee website:

(<http://www.laney.peralta.edu/learningassessment>) click on “Documents”, and then look in the “Proposed Timeline of Assessment Tasks” folder.

Highlights of the Timeline

We are asking for each department to complete SLOs for eight courses by the beginning of the Fall 2007 semester. Also, during Fall 2007, each department that offers degrees or certificates should develop outcomes for each degree or certificate. In addition, we are asking for each department to choose one course (including all sections of that course) and *assess two outcomes* for that course during Fall 2007.

Upcoming Events and Workshops

May 29-31 “Let’s Get It Done”

Would you like to get a head start on assessment tasks for next year? Spend three leisurely days with friendly and supportive colleagues developing your assessment methods. We will spend part of our time reading background material, part of our time working on developing our own rubrics and other assessment methods, and part of our time sharing what we came up with and giving each other feedback. We will share our ideas and expertise, and at the end of the workshop we hope to have an assessment plan and assessment methods developed for each one of your outcomes. The assessment methods we come up with will also be used as examples to help others in the Laney College community develop their own assessment

methods. *Enrollment in this special workshop is limited to only 20 participants, and there are about 10 spots left.* E-mail mfoosum@peralta.edu to register.

Developing Program Outcomes

Does your department offer any degrees or certificates? If so, you are required to have SLOs developed for each degree and certificate. You are also required to assess each of your outcomes. How do you do this? You’re in luck. Workshops on developing program outcomes will be scheduled for the Fall semester, starting in late September. There will be separate workshops for vocational departments and for academic departments.

Our goal is for all degrees and certificates to have outcomes in place by the end of Fall 2007. These outcomes should be listed on department websites by the end of Fall 2007.

Help with course SLOs

Cheli Fossum will be available before the Fall semester starts to help with developing SLOs. E-mail mfoosum@peralta.edu for an appointment. (If you e-mail over the summer, don’t expect an immediate answer.)

Suggestions or Requests?

The Learning Assessment Committee would like to support everyone in completing these assessment tasks. If you have any suggestions or requests for useful activities or training sessions, please let us know. If you’d like to schedule a workshop or training session for your department, please e-mail mfoosum@peralta.edu.

Have a wonderful, relaxing summer.

We’ll see you in the Fall.

Learning Assessment Committee Members: Cheli Fossum, Elñora Webb (co-chairs), Vina Cera, Peter Crabtree, Jackie Graves, Denise Hum, Evelyn Lord, Ann McMurdo, David Mitchell, Mae Frances Moore, Louis Quindlen, Karolyn van Putten, Wandra Williams, Ed Wright