

Grades vs. Student Learning Outcomes Assessment

Faculty use graded assignments to assess the performance of an individual student.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs), which are part of the Course Outline of Record (COR), are used to assess our curriculum. That is, are the students learning the skills faculty are trying to teach them? Where are the learning gaps, and how can we address them? In other words, how can we improve our curriculum?

The college also uses data for student persistence, success, etc., but those data do not tell us about specific skills.

A student may get an A in a course, but still have some skills that were not fully developed. For example, analysis of your grading rubrics for all the students in your class may show that, although they did well overall on a research assignment, most students lost points on the critical thinking portion of the rubric. This may lead you to add additional critical thinking activities to your course, and may lead to an update of the COR.