



Outcomes Assessment Practices Study Overview of Responses from a Statewide Perspective

During a conference presentation at the 2017 Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) Symposium, data was collected around practices to make SLOs more meaningful. In an analysis of the responses, the Department of Institutional Effectiveness found that the respondents wanted institutions to create greater understanding of and around SLOs. The analysis found a need to develop an ecosystem of understanding within and among departments so that SLOs would not simply function as a means of data collection, but would always lead to the improvement of student learning. Within a projected environment of greater understanding, respondents saw that SLO reporting would no longer be perceived as a necessary chore, but a valuable and integrated component of academic assessment and planning. The faculty saw a need for institutions to stop implementing systems and structures prematurely. Respondents called on faculty and staff to improve attitudes and perspectives and to stop blaming students for poor results. This analysis finds the desire to maintain support for faculty and staff administration (e.g., to attend conferences on outcomes assessment), to continue recognition of best practices, and to sustain oversight and collaboration. Faculty repeatedly championed assessment and saw it as worthy of maintaining, especially in light of current shifts in the conversation from compliance toward improvement.

The focus of the conference activity was to collect information around areas that faculty from across the state indicated needed to start, stop, and continue to bring meaningfulness. The following list is an aggregation of the activity findings.

START:

- Creating and strengthening a culture of SLO understanding
- Discussing Student Learning Results and Meaning at Program and Institution Levels
- Integrating SLO into Academic Planning
- Implementing Best Practices
- Standardizing Reports and Rubrics

STOP:

- Unnecessary Complexity in SLO Processes and Evaluations
- Negative Perspectives and Attitudes
- Mismanaging Time with Collection, Discussion, and Planning
- Limiting the Provision of Personnel, Resources, or Support

CONTINUE:

- Time for Discussion and Understanding
- Structure, Coordination, and Collaboration on SLOs within and among Departments
- Recognition and Support of Best Practices