

STDY 80: Foundations for Success

Student Learning Outcome Assessment

Spring 2008

Student Learning Outcome:

Students will be able to apply the knowledge of their learning styles to studying situations.

Means of Assessment:

75% of students in STDY 80 classes in Spring '08 will rate "Meets Standard" according to guidelines that measure the students' written explanation of their use of their learning style(s) to process information both in and outside of the classroom setting. The guidelines will be designed and administered by Study Techniques faculty. The assignment for assessment will be given within the last four weeks of the semester. Results will be compiled and reported out by the faculty.

Key Findings:

67 students were assessed. According to the guidelines established by the Study Techniques Faculty, students fell into the following categories:

Exceeds Standards:	22
Meets Standards:	22
Does Not Meet Standards:	23

Given these results, 44/67 or 66% of students met or exceeded the guidelines set for explaining their use of learning style(s) to process information.

Implications of Findings:

There were several implications of the findings. However, they were not helpful in truly answering the question of what students could and could not apply in terms of their learning style(s). The Study Committee felt that the survey instrument itself needed to be revised as it did not yield consistent or reliable results. Students did not seem to be clear as to what was wanted from them, and it was difficult to truly measure metacognition from the responses given.

Plan for Future:

One finding that was helpful for the Study Techniques faculty was to realize that the "visual" learning style appears to be confusing for students when it is broken down into "visual-verbal" and visual-nonverbal." The Committee made a decision to teach the "visual" learning style as one cohesive element in future classes.

In the future, the Committee has decided not to continue this assessment process. It was time consuming, and the information yielded from the process was not valuable. The Committee discussed creating assessments in the future that are closer to the "core" outcomes desired for the course such as locus of control or brain-based learning.