

TracDat 5 for New Users

Assessment Primer

April 2016

Outcomes Assessment

- What are student learning outcomes?
- Why do we assess outcomes?
- How do we assess them?

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):

- are measurable statements about what a student will think, know, or do as a result of a learning experience or service
- display evidence that learning has occurred at a specified level of competency

SLOs have five essential attributes:

- Aligned
- Central
- Feasible
- Meaningful
- Measurable

In addition to SLOs, Mt. SAC assesses:

- Administrative Unit Objectives (AUOs)
- Program Level Outcomes (PLOs)
- Institutional Level Outcomes (ILOs)

Outcomes should be aligned:

AUO/SLO/CMO ↔ PLO ↔ ILO

Accreditation Standards (2002, 2014)

Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges

- I.B.2. The institution defines and assesses student learning outcomes for **all instructional programs and student and learning support services**.
- II.A.3. The institution **identifies and regularly assesses learning outcomes for courses, programs, certificates and degrees** using established institutional procedures. In every class section **students receive a course syllabus that includes learning outcomes** from the institution's officially approved course outline.

Guiding Principles for SLO Assessment (2010)

Academic Senate for California Community Colleges

“The Academic Senate views outcomes assessment as a productive activity that can improve teaching...” (p. 7)

- Use authentic, ongoing SLO results to improve curriculum, foster student success, or strengthen pedagogy
- Take primary responsibility and fulfill role positively and collaboratively
- Do not use assessment data to evaluate faculty

AP 4020 Program and Curriculum Development (2013)

Mt. San Antonio College

The Educational Design Committee or Curriculum and Instruction Council may propose inactivation of a course ... [if]:

- The course has not completed an outcomes cycle within the past five years.

How do you create *authentic* assessment?

TRADITIONAL ASSESSMENT	AUTHENTIC ASSESSMENT
Select a response	Perform a Task
Contrived	Real-Life
Recall	Students perform real-world tasks that demonstrate meaningful application of essential knowledge and skills.
Teacher	
Indirect	

Remember to **close the loop!**

Assessment cycle must include “closing the loop.”

- Reflect upon the data collected
- Discuss what was learned
- Decide how to improve or sustain the results
- Document this discussion in TracDat

Want additional tips?

- Courses may have 1 - ∞ SLOs per course
- Course measureable objectives may be used as SLOs
- Assessment can be varied:
 - Formative (mid-semester)
 - Summative (end of semester)
- Assessment should be an ongoing

Is help available?

- Outcomes Coordinator
- Outcomes Committee
- Research and Institutional Effectiveness
- Information Technology

Where do I find these resources?

[Guiding Principles for SLO Assessment](#)

- Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, Adopted Fall 2010

[AP 4020 Program and Curriculum Development](#)

- Mt. San Antonio College, Revised August 2013

[Accreditation Standards](#)

- Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Adopted June 2014