

LEARNING OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT – BEST PRACTICES

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Reflect the program's mission/ goals.
- Identify specific skills, knowledge and attitudes students will demonstrate.
- Use unambiguous language, including specific action verbs.
- Represent appropriate levels of cognition and other aspects of learning based in Bloom's and other taxonomies.
- Are clearly measurable.
- Are readily available to stakeholders.

METHODS

- Are a clear fit for the outcomes.
- Lend themselves to outcome-specific results.
- Include at least one direct method for each outcome.
- Provide opportunities for data triangulation.
- Identify the assessment context (i.e. course or event) as well as a clear procedure for analysis by program faculty (i.e. criteria, rubric, process).
- Clearly defines desired results-informed by results and actions from previous– for each outcome.

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

- Establishes the integrity of the process (through description of sampling process, testing conditions and protocols, student motivation,...), and the validity of the results.
- Clearly links results to instrument that yielded them.
- Compares results with results from previous assessment cycle.
- Presents a sensible interpretation of results consistent with the outcomes, methods and desired results, referring back to past actions, when appropriate.
- Demonstrates faculty engagement in the process, involving more than one individual.

ACTIONS TAKEN

- Are specific and viable for the program.
- Are clearly derived from the interpretation of results, with evidence that results were disseminated to faculty.
- Include a rationale.
- Are clearly faculty-driven,
- Aim to enhance student learning in the program.
- Address specific, measurable strengths as well as deficiencies / weaknesses in student performance.
- Have been implemented or at least initiated, with clear details about timeframe and responsible individuals.

OVERALL REPORT

- Establishes how the assessment process informs the programs' efforts to enhance student learning over time.
- Provides evidence of the program's sustained efforts to enhance its assessment process (through past or planned actions).
- Is complete, with all required fields filled out.
- Includes supporting documents (Rubrics, criteria sheets,...).
- Provides evidence that all or most outcomes are assessed annually.
- Includes a rationale for extending assessment cycle.