

Inquiring About Learning at MJC

Institutional Objective:

In Spring of the 2006-2007 academic year, with support and concurrent training from the MJC SLO Committee and the Office of College Research and Planning, every academic division will select one course upon which to focus. Faculty* within the course's associated discipline(s) will participate in each of the following steps to inquire about and "close the loop" on a specific aspect of learning in that course.

Start the dialog.

Dialog to define the essential learning/competencies that must be mastered in **one** of following contexts. These are to be defined as **learning goals**.

- **across all sections** of a specific course
- within sequence of courses (manifesting in that specific course)
- within a cluster of courses (e.g. General Education transfer or non-transfer area)

Zoom in on one or two objectives.

From the results of the dialog **focus on one course** and select one or two learning goals that must be mastered early in all sections of the course (ideally, within the first four weeks of a semester). *This will enable you to open and close the loop by March 31.*

Open and close the loop.

- 1 Use the selected learning goals to **write measurable student learning objective(s)** that reflect the learning contexts and assessment instruments of specific sections of the course
- 2 Plan and conduct activities to facilitate learning of the of the specified objective(s)
- 3 Choose appropriate assessment tools or instruments to measure the actual outcomes against the specified objective(s)
- 4 Evaluate the results to determine factors that have influenced the outcomes
- 5 Plan a response to the outcomes

Share what you've learned.

Document your efforts at all steps of the process.

* In departments where there are fewer than three faculty, proposals will be accepted, however, the division will still need to pilot a course where multiple instructors are involved.

† Your results will be defined as the learning goals at the course level and should be updated in the course outline of record.

How to *participate.*

All submissions should be prepared for and submitted to the SLO Committee in care of:
Letitia Senechal, MJC Instruction Office, Morris, 205E.

Things to *consider.*

1. Does the desired “essential learning” usually occur within a 1-2 month time frame? (Don’t make the project too ambitious or unwieldy for this pilot. Small is good in this context.)
2. Are all members of your team committed to attending workshops and providing periodic reports to the SLO Committee on the progress of your pilot?
3. Are you prepared to **pioneer** the application of this model at MJC?

What you’ll *submit.*

Submit the following by December 4, 2006 to participate in the pilot.

1. Identity of the **course**
2. Name of a **project lead**
3. **List** of the instructors/instructional support staff who will participate and how they relate to the course in question

Submit the results and evidence of the pilot by March 31, 2007.

1. One or two essential **learning goals** that result from the dialog.
2. Measurable learning **objectives** for each participating section
3. Resulting **outcomes** for each participating section
4. Description and/or samples of the **assessment tools** used
5. Description and evidence of the evaluation process
6. Proposed **response** to the evaluation findings
7. **Documents** that reflect the following:
 - Activities from each of the phases of the project
 - Agendas/minutes from all meetings related to the pilot
 - Any other evidence gathered in the process