Outcomes-Assessment & Faculty Engagement: A Positive & Upward Movement

Being a Part of the Solution

Broadly speaking—
- We, as faculty, need to be aware of our own assessment plans/schedules.
- We, as faculty, need to “know” the nature of outcomes assessment and own it.
- We, as faculty, need to support each other and collaborate in regard to creating assessments, analyzing data, and making decisions at the course level, department level, and division level.

As faculty began to reflect on their SLO statements and test results toward the end of the fall 2016 semester, and as they began to input that information in eLumen, the engagement and completion rate went up as never seen before in such a short span of time (about ten days): We’re approximately up to 55% completion rate of the planned assessments for fall 2016.

Also, we still have time to enter fall 2016 information—our target date to complete entries for our planned assessments is Jan 31, 2017.

THANK YOU FOR ENGAGING WITH OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

INPUT FALL INFORMATION BY JANUARY 31

Faculty Questions

Q. Will there be more data-entry sessions by Jan 31, 2017?
A. Yes, based on lab availability, a few data-entry sessions will be announced. Please watch for announcements.

Q. Will there be training for mapping?
A. For mapping, it may be best for division or department reps to take the first step of checking off boxes inside of eLumen and then meet with their departments for approval.

Q. Will there be training for mapping?
A. Yes, please watch for announcements.

Q. Will there be help with individual training or data entry?
A. Yes, please email your SLO coordinator

Q. When does the current cycle end?
A. In fall 2017

Q. What happens spring 2018 onward?
A. A new cycle will begin for which we’ll need to create a new assessment schedule—a new planner.

Q. If, as a department, we’ve finished assessing all our courses at least once in the current cycle, what’s the next step?
A. If your assessment calendar/schedule says “PLO/ILO Assessments,” then “mapping” will be your next step.

Q. What happens after the spring semester’s data is in and mapping is completed?
A. Analyzing data that has been collected will be the next important step. This can be organized at the course level, department level, division level, or the college level.
As teachers, we create our SLO statements; we set our expectations of student learning; we design our curriculum; we test our students by trying to discover what they can actually do at the end of our course; we enter that information in a database; we figure out our SLO story; we analyze and apply our SLO story to further student learning.

The meaning we arrive at from such an outward journey cannot be handed to us. It’s our journey—internal & external. No one can walk that path for us; no one can make that meaning for us.

What about Meaning?

Six Components of SLO Assessments

- **SLO Statements**: The statements form the foundation of “backwards design.”
- **Assessment Plans**: “... specific approaches that convey how student learning will be assessed, the data collection tools and approaches that will be used, and the timeline for implementation” (http://learningoutcomesassessment.org/TFcomponents.htm).
- **Assessment Resources**: “... information or training provided to faculty and staff to help them understand, develop, implement, communicate, and use evidence of student learning” (http://learningoutcomesassessment.org/TFcomponents.htm).
- **Current Assessment Activities**: Projects and activities completed or currently underway
- **Evidence of Student Learning**: Results of assessment activities—examples: surveys, portfolios, institutional performance indicators.
- **Use of Student Learning Evidence**: “... the extent to which evidence of student learning is used to identify areas where changes in policies and practices may lead to improvement, inform institutional decision-making, problem identification, planning, goal setting, faculty development, course revision, program review, and accountability or accreditation self-study” (http://learningoutcomesassessment.org/TFcomponents.htm).

Link for the video above (or click on the image to play): https://vimeo.com/159024453

Assignment Library for Various Disciplines to Measure Outcomes