

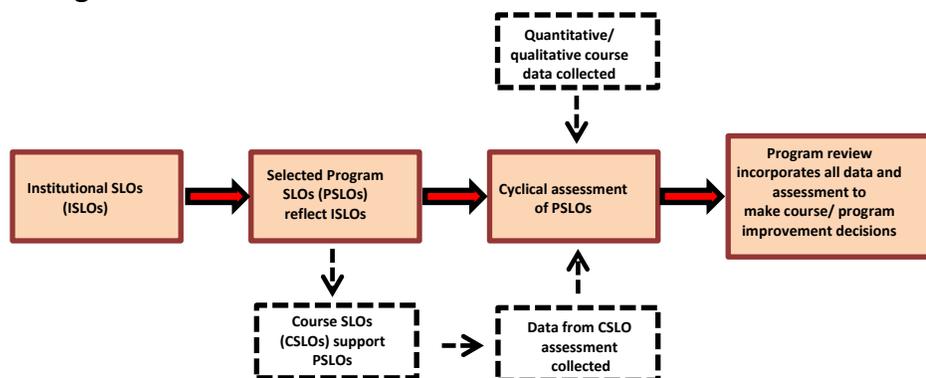
Miramar Student Learning Outcomes- What's it all about? Adjunct Orientation, Spring 2013

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What is a Student Learning Outcome?

A Student Learning Outcome is a statement about the knowledge, skills, attitudes and abilities a student is expected to have upon successful completion of an academic activity. A Learning Outcome should be expressed using active verbs and should be stated in terms that make it measurable.

What Learning Outcomes does Miramar have and how does assessment link to planning?



What are the benefits of Assessing Learning Outcomes?

For Students, statements of Learning Outcomes will:

- Provide clear statements about the knowledge, skills, attitudes and abilities expected upon successful completion of the learning experience.
- Ensure a common core assessment across all sections of a course.
- Reassure students that faculty are having conversations about student success.

For Faculty, participating in Learning Outcomes assessment will:

- Help determine what's working and what's not working in their courses or programs.
- Facilitate valuable campus-wide dialogue.
- Provide evidence to justify needed resources to maintain or improve courses and programs.
- Provide valuable feedback to inform and guide future teaching and learning to improve student learning.

For Miramar College, Learning Outcomes assessment will:

- Provide data about how well the mission is achieved.
- Demonstrate an institutional commitment to continually improving the academic programs and services offered.
- Provide valuable data for integrated planning and decision-making.
- Keep Miramar College in compliance with the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) requirements for learning outcomes. ACCJC requires that community colleges be at the Sustainable Continuous Quality Improvement Level of Implementation by Fall 2013.

What is the point of assessing Course Student Learning Outcomes when students are already assigned course grades?

Grades measure the overall performance by an individual student in a certain course; however, they do not provide information on the learning of specific skills. For example, if a student gets a “B” in a course, it is not possible (without checking the individual student records) to determine which topics within the course were grasped well by the student. Faculty members teaching various sections of a particular course could vary in their weighting of certain topics or skills to produce grades. The goal of SLO assessment is to identify how many students were able to demonstrate a specific skill, instead of how many students received ‘A’s and ‘B’s in the course. Moreover, they are intended to determine what students would get out of a course regardless of which section they selected or which faculty member they had.

How do I find SLOs for my course?

To access SLOs for a course, you may do the following:

1. All course SLOs, measurement methods, and assessment results are catalogued on the SLOJet website:

Site: <http://slo.sdmiramar.edu/>

Login: faculty

Password: slo

Follow the links to your particular school and course. SLOs will be listed, along with the measurement method.

2. The department chair, course instructional lead faculty or the SLOAC Facilitator can also assist you with identification of your course SLOs.

What do I do with the SLOs once I find them?

1. **Include the SLOs for your course on your course syllabus.**

The Academic Senate, Faculty and Administration at Miramar College have determined that it is in the best interests of the student, faculty and college that all faculty include the SLOs for a course on their course syllabi. This recommendation is in line with what other colleges are doing across the district, state and country and does not violate academic freedom.

2. **Administer the SLOs for your course.**

If you have any questions about the measurement method for a given SLO, please contact your department chair, course faculty lead or the SLOAC Facilitator. Currently, SLO assessment is occurring each semester.

3. **Record the SLO assessment results in SLOJet at the end of the semester and participate in faculty dialogue on the overall SLO success in the course and potential improvement strategies.**

Currently, SLOs are assessed each semester. In the future, we may adopt a revised 3-year SLO Assessment Cycle (SLOAC) to allow for meaningful dialogue and implementation/ assessment of improvement strategies.

