

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) Assessment

A resource on NOCE SLOs

What is an SLO?

An SLO, or Student Learning Outcome, is a clear and concise statement that describes how students can demonstrate their mastery of the learning objectives of a course or program.

Why is SLO assessment important?

SLO assessment is crucial as it offers insights into student learning, enhancing instructional strategies. It serves as a metric to gauge the effectiveness of a course or program and pinpoint areas for improvement.

Notably, a significant majority of students who completed their courses in 2021/2022 met the SLO's, with most achieving an average score of 70% or higher.



How do I assess an SLO?

SLO's can be assessed through various methods, including:

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| Rubric Assessments | This involves using a final essay, portfolio, or project to evaluate all the course SLOs. It's particularly effective in disciplines where students progressively build on skills throughout the course. |
| Observation | This method involves an observational skill assessment where instructors or peers observe and evaluate a student's performance or behavior in real-time situations. |
| Chapter Quizzes and Unit Tests | These are standard methods to assess SLOs, with scores being reported each semester. |

When should I assess an SLO?

To ensure continuous improvement in student learning, SLO's should be assessed regularly. This assessment takes place every term for every class.

How do I interpret the SLO assessment data?

Once you've entered your assessment scores into platforms like eLumen, you should review the collective results. This analysis will highlight areas where students are thriving and areas where additional support might be beneficial.

Consider overall trends, patterns, outliers, and comparisons in the data. For instance, are there consistent differences in performance between terms? Are there data points that deviate significantly from the norm?

Break down data by subgroups, such as ethnicity, to see if trends or patterns change significantly between subgroups.

When analyzing narrative information, like survey comments, look for recurring themes and understand common issues or evaluations.

What resources are available for SLO assessments?

The school offers a plethora of resources, such as:

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| Leadership Team | They provide guidance and support throughout the SLO assessment journey. |
| Associate Deans | Each program boasts an associate dean equipped to assist with SLO-related inquiries. |
| SLO Coordinator | This dedicated individual oversees the SLO processes as a valuable resource. |
| Departmental SLO Representatives | Designated Faculty members with expertise in SLOs and a deep understanding of their respective programs. These representatives ensure that each program's unique needs and perspectives are considered in broader SLO discussions and decisions and support the faculty within their program. |
| NOCE Canvas Resources | This provides information on what an SLO is, how to assess one, the setup process, and the diverse assessment options (portfolio, test, visual, etc.). |

Data analysis Tips for SLOs

- **Trends:** Look for overall trends in data over time and consider factors influencing these trends.
- **Patterns:** Identify patterns in the data and recognize any surprising concentrations.
- **Outliers:** Be vigilant for data points that deviate significantly from the norm.
- **Comparisons:** Compare data with institution-wide data or other benchmarks.
- **Data Breakdowns (Disaggregation):** Consider data broken down by subgroups, such as ethnicity.
- **Themes and Interactions:** Analyze narrative information for recurring themes.

What is the relationship between Competency-Based Education (CBE) and SLOs?

CBE and SLOs share a close alignment in their foundational principles. Both underscores demonstrated skills and knowledge, outcome-driven goals, learning flexibility, tailored instruction, continuous assessment, and alignment with real-world skills. As the state contemplates transitioning to competency-based education, SLO data will become increasingly pivotal.

Who is responsible for SLO's at our school?

The responsibilities for SLO's is a collective one. While faculty play a central role in SLO assessment, everyone contributes to its success, from administrators to support staff.



The contract stipulates the creation and assessment of SLOs for every class each term and accentuates faculty involvement in SLO creation and evaluation. However, it explicitly states that SLO assessment data related to student performance will not factor into the faculty member's evaluation process.

How can I get more involved in the SLO assessment process?

To immerse yourself in the SLO assessment process, participate in department meetings, collaborate with peers, and attend training sessions. Engage in SLO discussions and share your insights and experiences with others.