

# Student Learning Outcomes Annual Report Process 2014-15

## Instructions for Undergraduate Programs

The Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) Annual Report process is a key component of Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACSCOC) reaffirmation. The university needs to identify student learning outcomes in its educational programs, assess the extent to which outcomes are achieved, and provide evidence of developing improvement based on analysis of the results (SACSCOC Comprehensive Standard 3.3.1.1). **CS 3.3.1.1 is one of the most cited standards for non-compliance by SACSCOC.** New guidelines continue to be developed by SACSCOC increasing expectations on student learning outcomes reporting. Therefore in each reporting cycle changes are made to the process to more clearly and accurately define and align outcomes, measurements and findings and provide evidence of continuous quality improvements. The SLO process continues to evolve as additional refinements are needed in order for UofL to be in full compliance with SACS requirements.

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness (IE) is charged with the collection and review of Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) Annual Reports submitted by the chairs/departments heads of the academic programs. Below are the instructions for the completing the 2014-15 SLO Report for undergraduate programs.

### Important Information

- **DEADLINE:** IE will need to receive the 2014-15 SLO Reports by **Friday, November 6, 2015.**
- **100% submission of reports is required for compliance with SACS core requirements and comprehensive standards.** These reports are critical to the university's ability to demonstrate institutional effectiveness. Your dean will receive periodic status reports detailing outstanding reports until full compliance is achieved.
- Staff from IE is available to assist you and ensure timely submission of the reports. Please contact Cheryl Gilchrist at 852-8139 or [cheryl.gilchrist@louisville.edu](mailto:cheryl.gilchrist@louisville.edu) if you need assistance.
- Please submit the 2014-15 SLO Report template for undergraduate programs via email to [cheryl.gilchrist@louisville.edu](mailto:cheryl.gilchrist@louisville.edu)
- IE staff will enter your reports into Compliance Assist.

### SACS Accreditation

As part of the SACS accreditation for undergraduate programs, UofL needs to document the integrated relationship of our General Education program, Quality Enhancement Program [(QEP)Ideas to Action], and a culminating undergraduate experience (CUE) within our undergraduate programs. Through our SLO process the department chairs/heads provide that evidence.

## **Revised Template**

The template was revised to assist department chairs/heads of undergraduate programs with the alignment needed for each required program goal and its relationship to the SLO, measure and finding. Detailed instructions are provided directly on the form for completing each section of the 2014-15 SLO Report. Please submit your report to IE using the 2014-15 SLO Report for the undergraduate program. IE staff will enter the SLO Reports into Compliance Assist, a comprehensive web-based assessment and reporting system to help facilitate and standardize our SLO efforts at UofL.

## **Using the 2013-14 Feedback Reports**

All chairs/department heads received 2013-14 Feedback Report. These reports were generated utilizing a rubric. The feedback report detailed suggestions for the next reporting cycle to demonstrate the alignment needed for each of the required program goals, its relationship to the SLOs and measures, and documenting improvement to the program based on the findings. The recommended changes identified in the 2013-14 SLO Feedback Reports need to be reflected in the 2014-15 SLO Reports.

## **Online (distance) Academic Programs and Off-Site Academic Programs**

New guidelines being developed by SACSCOC are expanding expectations on student learning outcomes reporting. Programs marketed as online through the Delphi Center and programs where 50% or more of the program are available offsite will need to be more specific in their SLO reports about the assessment of outcomes for the students enrolled in programs offered either online or at offsite locations. SLO reports will need to show that the learning taking place online or offsite is comparable to the face-to-face components of the program. UofL's Institutional Effectiveness staff will follow up later in the fall with units that have off-site and/or online programs that require SLO reporting tied to those locations.

In the 2014-15 SLO Report, department chairs/heads will need to identify online (distance) and/or off-site degree program in addition to the traditional on campus program. Department chairs/heads will need to verify whether program goals, SLOs and measures for online academic programs and /or off-site are similar in scope and content to the traditionally delivered counterpart. **You will need to distinguish in your report between on campus, distance, and off-site students and document for each group of students their direct attainment of the outcomes.** If the online (distance) or off-site program is a stand-alone program, a separate report will need to be submitted reflecting the unique program goals and related SLOs and measures.

## **Certificate Programs**

For all **certificate programs**, department chairs/heads are asked to verify whether the certificate is embedded within a degree-granting academic program with established program goals and aligned SLOs. If not embedded, a separate report needs to be submitted for the certificate program identifying its specific program goals, SLOs, and measures.

## **Action Plan**

This provides evidence of “closing the loop”, by utilizing the assessment results indicated throughout this SLO report to indicate strategies for continuous program improvement to enhance student learning and the student's academic experience. In order to truly “close the

loop”, it is necessary to reflect on your action plan from the previous SLO reporting cycle, to address what, if any, improvements were made, and create a new action plan to move forward based on new assessment results

## INSTRUCTIONS

### Program Mission

The **program mission** is a broad statement of the purpose of the academic unit/program which is linked to UofL’s institutional mission. The mission statement outlines the purpose of the academic unit/program within the context of who it serves and in what ways. Each academic unit/program should have its own mission statement that reflects its contribution to UofL’s institutional mission: <http://louisville.edu/about/>

### #1 Competency Related to Major

#### **Program Goal #1**

A statement (clearly aligned to the program’s mission) that addresses the distinct body of knowledge students will possess upon completing this program of study.

#### **Student Learning Outcome #1**

SLO clearly aligns to Program Goal 1 (above), and describes specific **measurable** knowledge, skills or perceptions to be gained or improved upon completing the program of study.

*NOTE: Though you may have multiple outcomes related to this program goal, please only report ONE SLO for which you have the necessary measure, target, and finding.*

#### **Measure #1**

Clearly aligns to SLO 1 (above) and describes a **direct** assessment measuring how students’ work will be evaluated to determine their level of competency.

- Acceptable: paper, exam, essay, presentation, thesis/dissertation, portfolio, supervisor/internship/co-op evaluation
- NOT acceptable: course grade or course completion

Be sure to **describe** the criteria used to evaluate the student work and **provide copies of the evaluation materials**, if applicable.

- Acceptable: rubric (with explanation of scale), specific exam questions related to SLO, specific questions from supervisor/internship/co-op evaluation form. **Please include copy of rubric, evaluation form, etc.**

*NOTE: Where appropriate, the same measure may be used for more than one SLO.*

An **indirect** measure can be used **in addition** to a direct measure (student opinion survey, satisfaction survey, exit survey, etc.)

### **Target #1**

Clearly aligns to Measure 1 (above) and indicates a specific and appropriate threshold for students' collective performance related to the measure of SLO 1. Be sure to include:

- sampling methodology (e.g. representative sample, whole population) with justification for your choice,
- the total number of students being evaluated (ex. n = 25), and
- the percentage (not mean/average) of students expected to achieve a particular threshold (e.g. 90% of students must earn a rating of "adequate" or higher on the designated rubric).

### **Finding #1**

Provide results specified in Measure 1 (above) and indicate whether the intended target/threshold was met. (e.g. 75% of students earned a rating of "adequate" or higher on the designated rubric. Target was not met.)

## **#2 Competency which builds upon the General Education Curriculum**

### **Program Goal #2**

This goal clearly aligns to the program mission statement and addresses how upper-level courses (generally 400-level and above) in your program continue to strengthen either effective communication or cultural diversity (one of the competencies initially gained through the general education curriculum)

*Note: Critical thinking will be addressed in section 4: Competency related to Ideas to Action (i2a).*

### **Student Learning Outcome #2**

SLO clearly aligns to Program Goal 2 (above) and describes specific **measurable** knowledge, skills or perceptions related to effective communication or cultural diversity to be strengthened by completing this program of study.

*NOTE: Though you may have multiple outcomes related to this program goal, please only report ONE SLO for which you have the necessary measure, target, and finding.*

### **Measure #2**

Clearly aligns to SLO 2 (above) and describes a **direct** assessment measuring how students' work will be evaluated to determine their level of competency.

- Acceptable: paper, exam, essay, presentation, thesis/dissertation, portfolio, supervisor/internship/co-op evaluation
- NOT acceptable: course grade or course completion

Be sure to **describe** the criteria used to evaluate the student work and **provide copies of the evaluation materials**, if applicable.

- Acceptable: rubric (with explanation of scale), specific exam questions related to SLO, specific questions from supervisor/internship/co-op evaluation form. **Please include copy of rubric, evaluation form, etc.**

*NOTE: Where appropriate, the same measure may be used for more than one SLO.*

An **indirect** measure can be used **in addition** to a direct measure (student opinion survey, satisfaction survey, exit survey, etc.)

### **Target #2**

Clearly aligns to Measure 2 (above), and indicates a specific and appropriate threshold for students' collective performance related to the measure of SLO 2. Be sure to include:

- sampling methodology (e.g. representative sample, whole population) with justification for your choice,
- the total number of students being evaluated (ex. n = 25), and
- the percentage (not mean/average) of students expected to achieve a particular threshold (e.g. 90% of students must earn a rating of "adequate" or higher on the designated rubric).

### **Finding #2**

Provide results specified in Measure 2 (above) and indicate whether the intended target/threshold was met. (e.g. 75% of students earned a rating of "adequate" or higher on the designated rubric. Target was not met.)

## **#3 Competency Related to the Culminating Undergraduate Experience**

### **Program Goal #3**

This goal clearly aligns to the program mission statement, describes senior-level applied-learning, addresses the defining features of a culminating undergraduate experience, (CUE) <http://louisville.edu/ideastoaction/about/cue/curriculartoolkit/definingfeatures> and identifies the specific CUE course(s). This should describe an opportunity for students to build upon discipline-specific knowledge and/or critical thinking skills and to apply their emerging skills to solve practical (i.e. real world) problems of increasing complexity.

### **Student Learning Outcome #3**

SLO clearly aligns to Program Goal 3 (above), and describes specific measurable discipline-specific knowledge and/or critical thinking and application of their emerging skills to solve practical (i.e. real world) problems of increasing complexity.

*NOTE: Though you may have multiple outcomes related to this program goal, please only report ONE SLO for which you have the necessary measures and findings.*

### **Measure #3**

Clearly aligns to SLO 3 (above) and describes a **direct** assessment measuring how students' work will be evaluated to determine their level of competency.

- Acceptable: paper, exam, essay, presentation, thesis/dissertation, portfolio, supervisor/internship/co-op evaluation
- NOT acceptable: course grade or course completion

Be sure to **describe** the criteria used to evaluate the student work and **provide copies of the evaluation materials**, if applicable.

- Acceptable: rubric (with explanation of scale), specific exam questions related to SLO, specific questions from supervisor/internship/co-op evaluation form. **Please include copy of rubric, evaluation form, etc.**

*NOTE: Where appropriate, the same measure may be used for more than one SLO.*

An **indirect** measure can be used **in addition** to a direct measure (student opinion survey, satisfaction survey, exit survey, etc.)

### **Target #3**

Clearly aligns to Measure 3 (above), and indicates a specific and appropriate threshold for students' collective performance related to the measure of SLO 3. Be sure to include:

- sampling methodology (e.g. representative sample, whole population) with justification for your choice,
- the total number of students being evaluated (ex. n = 25), and
- the percentage (not mean/average) of students expected to achieve a particular threshold (e.g. 90% of students must earn a rating of "adequate" or higher on the designated rubric).

### **Finding #3**

Provide results specified in Measure 3 (above) and indicate whether the intended target/threshold was met. (e.g. 75% of students earned a rating of "adequate" or higher on the designated rubric. Target was not met.)

## **#4 Competency Related to Critical Thinking/Ideas to Action**

### **Program Goal #4**

This goal clearly aligns to the program mission statement and addresses the opportunities provided to students for refinement of their critical thinking skills (e.g. problem solving and higher-order thinking) acquired through the program.

### **Student Learning Outcome #4**

SLO clearly aligns to Program Goal 4 (above), and describes specific **measurable** critical thinking skills acquired through the program.

*NOTE: Though you may have multiple outcomes related to this program goal, please only report ONE SLO for which you have the necessary measures and findings.*

### **Measure #4**

Clearly aligns to SLO 4 (above) and describes a **direct** assessment measuring how students' work will be evaluated to determine their level of competency.

- Acceptable: paper, exam, essay, presentation, thesis/dissertation, portfolio, supervisor/internship/co-op evaluation
- NOT acceptable: course grade or course completion

Be sure to **describe** the criteria used to evaluate the student work and **provide copies of the evaluation materials**, if applicable.

- Acceptable: rubric (with explanation of scale), specific exam questions related to SLO, specific questions from supervisor/internship/co-op evaluation form. **Please include copy of rubric, evaluation form, etc.**

*NOTE: Where appropriate, the same measure may be used for more than one SLO.*

An **indirect** measure can be used **in addition** to a direct measure (student opinion survey, satisfaction survey, exit survey, etc.)

#### **Target #4**

Clearly aligns to Measure 4 (above) and indicates a specific and appropriate threshold for students' collective performance related to the measure of SLO 4. Be sure to include:

- sampling methodology (e.g. representative sample, whole population) with justification for your choice,
- the total number of students being evaluated (ex.  $n = 25$ ), and
- the percentage (not mean/average) of students expected to achieve a particular threshold (e.g. 90% of students must earn a rating of "adequate" or higher on the designated rubric).

#### **Finding #4**

Provide results specified in Measure 4 (above) and indicate whether the intended target/threshold was met. (e.g. 75% of students earned a rating of "adequate" or higher on the designated rubric. Target was not met.)

### **Action Plan**

This provides evidence of "closing the loop", by utilizing the assessment results indicated throughout this SLO report to indicate strategies for continuous program improvement to enhance student learning and the student's academic experience. In order to truly "close the loop", it is necessary to reflect on your action plan from the previous SLO reporting cycle, to address what, if any, improvements were made, and create a new action plan to move forward based on new assessment results