



Plan Overview

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Plan

Date of approval: September 2005, upon formal acceptance of the plan by the Higher Learning Commission

Approving individual or group: Academic Advisory Council and Curriculum Committee

Responsible administrator: Vice President for Academic Affairs

Implementation timeframe: The student learning outcomes assessment plan is implemented on an ongoing basis. A more detailed review of the schedule and time frame for implementation of the plan is provided below:

- *Course-level learning outcomes:* Approved by Division, Curriculum Committee, and Academic Vice President each time new course is approved; Division Chairs review of course syllabi is ongoing
- *Program-specific learning outcomes:* Outcomes developed and updated by program faculty; assessment completed by faculty and communicated to Division Chairs and the Academic Vice President through yearly reports
- *General education learning outcomes:* Outcomes developed through broad faculty input to the Curriculum Committee. Curriculum Committee reviews and potentially revises general education outcomes and/or requirements on a five-year cycle; Assessment done through yearly program-specific learning outcomes reports provided by program faculty to Division Chairs and the Academic Vice President, plus through ongoing all-college outcome assessments in capstone courses and every-other-year, faculty-led research studies
- *All-college learning outcomes:* Outcomes developed through broad faculty input to the Curriculum Committee; authentic assessment done through capstone course student performance each semester and through faculty-led college-wide assessment studies completed every other year

Assessment schedule: See above

Projected schedule for development of subsequent plan: Pieces of the plan have different review and renewal cycles.

- Individual course learning outcomes: ongoing
- Program-specific learning outcomes: yearly review of reporting format and requirements by the Academic Advisory Council; yearly opportunities for programs to update program-specific outcomes and to implement program improvement activities
- General Education outcomes and related requirements: Five-year cycle led by the Curriculum Committee
- All-College outcomes: Five-year review cycle led by the Curriculum Committee

Projected timeframe for implementation of subsequent plan: As noted above

Plan overview: This plan addresses the way student learning outcomes are developed and assessed at the course, program, general education, and all-college levels. NWC's faculty-led process includes several years of data collection and analysis that have resulted in the implementation of new student support programs, redesign of academic programs, the reassignment of a faculty positions, and improved student performance especially noteworthy at the all-college integrated outcome level.

Summary of ways the plan supports the Northwest College mission: This plan is at the heart of our ability to achieve the educational outcomes in our mission. Through what we learn by implementing this plan, we are able to assess and enhance the extent to which we achieve our mission-driven commitment to an exceptional learning environment and individual student achievement. Through our general education and all-college outcomes, we also support student learning in relation to cross-cultural awareness and utilization of multiple points of view which are important components of building support for diversity and global citizenship.