Annual PLO Report

Overview: We ask each program to provide an annual report on Program Learning Outcome (PLO) assessment activity, results, and conclusions. The overarching goal of PLO assessment is to provide the program faculty with information for evaluating student learning and identifying areas for program improvement. The information contained in this report will not be used for comparisons of programs either internally at UCSC or externally with comparable programs at other universities.

Purpose: This report’s goals are to document the criteria and standards of performance for student learning and to summarize an annual assessment study’s methods and findings. The report is designed to facilitate the faculty’s discussion and decisions regarding the quality of the curriculum, pedagogy and advising, as well as to improve the program’s ability to engage in effective, meaningful assessment.

The long-term goal is to create a historical record of the faculty’s standards of performance for student learning, assessment methods and findings, and program improvements. In this regard, the annual PLO report is an essential and effective tool for ensuring continued engagement in assessment that adequately prepares the department for conducting the self-study, part of the program review process.

Furthermore, annual PLO reports provide systematically collected evidence of student learning for division- and campus-wide assessment of the core competencies, and thus enable assessment at the campus-wide level without requiring additional data collection. Campus-wide assessment is needed for preparation of an institutional self-study, and it supports institutional transparency and accountability.

Audience: The annual PLO report is written for the current and future faculty teaching in the program. The report is also available to the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs (VPAA), the Senate Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) and the Graduate Council as appropriate, the respective Academic Dean, and the campus specialist on assessment. In addition, some excerpts from these reports that illustrate our campus approach to learning assessment could be included in the campus self-studies reviewed by the campus community, external reviewers, accreditation agencies, and the public.

Submission: The report should be submitted to the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs (and if not submitted by the department chair, the chair should also receive a copy) each year by either June 30 or December 1st.

Required documents to be included in the report or in Appendix: For direct evidence, include rubric(s), student assignments, and 2-4 examples of student work exemplifying faculty’s standards; for indirect evidence, include questions/prompts used in collecting student self-evaluation.

For graduate and some undergraduate programs that have two- or three-year assessment cycles for their PLOs,
- in years for which you are only collecting evidence, please complete sections 1-3 of the report and provide a rubric in the Appendix, and
- in the year when you conclude the assessment cycle, provide a full report.