

INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) Download this template pdf to computer (do not fill in online!)
- (2) Fill in Departmental PLO Assessment report; save file
- (3) Email to assessment@ucsc.edu

DEPARTMENTAL PLO ASSESSMENT REPORT

Department: _____

Program(s) evaluated: _____

1. Summary of assessment activities

Faculty & staff who participated in this PLO study (including planning, assessment, development of implications/next steps:

Program Learning Outcome(s) evaluated: _____

Specific courses and instructional methods that support student achievement of skills/knowledge related to above PLOs: *(if available, please attach up-to-date curriculum matrix as appendix)*

Type(s) of assessment conducted: Rubric-based Student self-assessment

Guiding question(s) for PLO assessment (i.e., what did faculty want to know?):

2. ResultsKey findings (overall and subgroup-specific) for each criterion/skill assessed: *(as list or short paragraph)*

How do these results compare to faculty's expected standards of student achievement (e.g., $\geq 75\%$ of students met expectations and $< 5\%$ did not meet expectations)?

3. Implications and Plan of Action

a. Program- and/or Course-level Improvement

The primary purpose of PLO assessment is to use findings to improve student learning. These improvements can occur at multiple levels, including:

- (1) Instruction** (e.g., redesigning assignments, adopting new pedagogies, adding TAs)
- (2) Curriculum** (e.g., adding an intermediate level course, re-sequencing program curriculum, adjusting pre-requisite courses)
- (3) Co-curricular support for student learning** (e.g., tutoring, library instruction)
- (4) Communicating expectations to students** (e.g., including rubrics as a teaching tool, explaining how a course and/or a specific assignment helps students develop PLOs in the course syllabi)

What actions does your department plan to take to improve student learning based on the PLO study findings?

b. Plan of Action for Proposed Changes

Please describe the specific plan of action for the improvements/changes proposed above.

Proposed timeline: _____

Steps for implementation:

Faculty and staff responsible for implementing improvements/changes:

c. Implications for Assessment Methods

Briefly describe what worked and what did not work in this assessment process.

As assessment is an iterative process, it is crucial to reflect upon methods in order to improve future assessment cycles. Examples of improvements include:

- (1) **Revising PLO statement** to improve measurability or clarity (e.g., using active verbs that show how learning is applied, such as “demonstrate” or “solve,” typically supports student learning and assessment more effectively than more general cognitive verbs such as “know” or “understand”)*
- (2) **Revising rubric scope and/or descriptions of expectations** (Are they precise enough to be meaningful? Do they promote shared performance expectations among faculty and students?)*
- (3) **Establishing shared understanding** of what a specific level of student performance/skill looks like (Have faculty assessed and discussed sample papers so that different individuals could reliably draw the same conclusions about the quality of student work?)*
- (4) **Number of students** evaluated and whether they were representative of your student population (Was the sample size sufficient to yield meaningful findings both overall and by student subgroups?)*

How do you plan to improve assessment methods in future cycles? Distinguish between practices that can be improved immediately and those to be established as long-term goals.

d. Next Steps

Which PLO(s) do you plan to assess next? _____

Do you plan to make any changes in your assessment methods?

- No
 Yes:

4. Program Improvement based on Previous PLO assessments

In what ways has your department used past PLO assessments to improve student learning?

In what ways has your department used past PLO assessments to improve the assessment process or methods?

5. Supplemental Materials

Please include the following materials as appendices when submitting this report:

- IRAPS study
 Up-to-date curriculum matrix, if available

Please email this report to assessment@ucsc.edu.