

Policy Number: 02-50-030

Policy Title: STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES & ASSESSMENT

Effective Date: September 8, 2017

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1. **Policy Statement**

OHSU requires each Academic Program to establish Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for each approved degree and certificate program, to assess program SLOs annually in a systematic and rigorous manner, and to use the assessment findings to improve teaching, learning, and the curriculum.

The Assessment Council is charged with reviewing and approving each Academic Program Assessment Plan. Academic Programs are required to demonstrate annual, systematic review and revision of approved Assessment Plans and reports.

2. **Definitions**

- A. **Assessment.** The ongoing systematic process of: 1) establishing SLOs; 2) verifying/validating SLOs; 3) analyzing the results of assessments; and 4) adjusting or improving the results of future Assessment Plans.
- B. **Student Learning Outcome.** The identification of measurable characteristics of what a learner should know or do at the end of an educational activity (i.e., lecture, simulation, course) or degree/certificate completion. Outcomes are usually expressed as measurable knowledge, skills, or attitudes.
- C. **Assessment Plan.** A document describing an Academic Program's SLOs, targets, instruments for learning outcome appraisals, assessment timeline, process for analyzing assessment data, and improving plans.
- D. **Academic Program.** A unique course of study that culminates in the awarding of a specific degree (or certificate) in combination with a specific major. An academic program is characterized by: 1) a coherent and specialized body of knowledge, methods and skills; 2) a faculty-designed curricular path; 3) faculty identification with an organized instructional effort in a subject matter area; 4) increasing complexity in curricular content during the student's period of study; and 5) specified learning outcomes or competency levels expected of program graduates.

3. **Responsibilities**

- A. **Dean.**
The dean of each school or college shall be responsible for ensuring that all programs have Assessment Plans and annual reports, are conducting regular and

systematic assessment of student performance, and are using assessment findings to improve teaching, learning and curricula as needed. The dean is required to make current academic program purpose statements and SLOs publicly available.

B. Academic Program Faculty.

The faculty has overall responsibility for reviewing and/or revising Academic Program SLOs annually and revising as needed. Academic Program Faculty are required to submit Assessment Plans and reports annually to the Assessment Council. Academic Program Faculty should revise, delete and/or add to an Academic Program's SLOs, Assessment Plans and reports, as appropriate, to ensure they remain dynamic and relevant.

C. Assessment Council.

The Assessment Council is responsible for reviewing and advising Academic Program assessment activity in preparing for program evaluation by the Five-Year Academic Program Review Committee.

4. Procedures

The Office of the Provost will oversee the implementation of this policy as outlined in the Assessment Council Charter and Assessment Handbook.

Implementation Date: November 3, 2016

Revision History: February 19, 2014; November 3, 2016; September 8, 2017

Related Policies and Procedures: Policy 02-50-010, Proposing Curricular Changes; Policy 02-50-005, Academic Program Review; Assessment Council Charter

Responsible Office: Provost, academicpolicy@ohsu.edu

Supersedes: CAP Policy 0-03-0612

Key Words: Student Learning Outcomes, Assessment, Academic Programs, Accreditation.