

Mesa College Learning Assessment and Timeline--we run a five year assessment cycle.

All SLOs/AUOs for all courses/service areas need to be assessed within the six year accreditation cycle. Our last site visit was in October 2010. In preparation for our Fall 2016 visit, all courses and programs must assess each SLO/AUO and enter the results into Taskstream. The timeline for the completion of this project is as follows:

December 31, 2013	January 2014	May 30, 2014	Fall 2014	Spring 2015	Fall 2015	Spring 2016
All 2012/2013 assessments must be entered into TaskStream	Launch of the revised TaskStream Platform,	All 2013/2014 assessments must be entered into Taskstream. We are currently in the fourth year of our assessment cycle.	The Assessment cycle continues. Any SLO's not assessed should be scheduled for assessment this semester. This year marks the fifth and final year of this assessment cycle. We should be closing the loop on the round of assessment from the last Accreditation visit.	All 2014/2015 assessments should be entered into Taskstream	Final Clean-up of the course SLO's and Program SLO's which have been submitted to Taskstream in preparation for the Accreditation Report	Time to act upon what we have learned from our assessments and make adjustments to SLOs/AUOs for the coming cycle.

Where are we now in the Assessment Cycle?

This year, your program/service area should be in its fourth assessment cycle and you will be addressing the SLO's selected for this year by your program. Next year, we will be in the fifth year of the assessment cycle, and closing the loop on the round of assessments from the last Accreditation visit. Next year, you will assess the final SLO's in your program or service area.

What if all the ILO's are represented in my program/service SLO's, but we have only assessed three SLO's including this year's?

Then your program will have to assess two of the SLO's this year, and one next in order to complete the cycle.

What if we have assessed courses for the past four years, but have only assessed Critical Thinking for those courses?

All courses must be assessed for all SLO's deemed appropriate by the program or service area by Spring 2015. You must develop some form of assessment that allows for all of your SLO's to be assessed.

What if our assessment doesn't really incorporate all of the ILO's?

If the reason that your assessment does not include all of the ILO's is because you have made the choice as a program that not all ILO's are present in your area, then no problem. However, if the problem lies with your assessment not being inclusive of all ILO's, then your program needs to address this and develop an assessment that is inclusive.

Some other questions that may help clarify...

What is an ILO?

ILOs (Institutional Learning Outcomes) are the Outcomes that were established by the College that define a student's progress while at Mesa. All students graduating from Mesa College should show competency in the their GE breadth requirements, their major course of study, and the following ILO's:

Critical Thinking

Communication

Self Awareness and Interpersonal Skills

Personal Actions and Civic Responsibility

Global Awareness

Technological Awareness

What is an SLO?

SLO's (Student Learning Outcomes) is a list of established outcomes defined by each program or service area that defines a student's progress while at Mesa. The program or service area outcomes should be driven by the ILO's. Program Learning Outcomes are drawn from the SLO's for the courses offered within a Program. Service Area Outcomes are drawn from the service base of a given Service Area.

How does a Program SLO differ from a course or service SLO?

A course or service SLO is essentially the bottom of the student knowledge pyramid. The course or service SLO's then feed up to the next level on the pyramid and become the Program SLO's. The Program SLO's combine with the GELO's (General Education Learning Outcomes) to become the ILO's.

How do outcomes and objectives differs?

According to the California State Academic Senate, "objectives are small steps that lead toward a goal, for instance the discrete course content that faculty cover within a discipline. Objectives are usually more numerous and create a framework for the overarching student learning outcomes which address synthesizing, evaluating and analyzing many of the objectives."

"Student learning outcomes" are the specific observable or measureable results that are expected subsequent to a learning experience. These outcomes may involve knowledge (cognitive), skills (behavioral), or attitudes (affective) that provide evidence that learning has occurred as a result of a specified course, program activity, or process."

What does assessing your SLO's mean?

On a six year accreditation cycle (we are currently in year 4), all courses and services should be assessed. Ideally, over the last 4 years, your program or service area should have assessed 80% of the SLO's that were defined for your courses or services. Each course or service should be assessed in the areas of: (areas are random, there is no order)

- Critical Thinking
- Communication
- Self Awareness/Interpersonal Skills
- Personal Action/Civic Responsibility
- Global Awareness
- Technological Awareness

Not all courses or services need be assessed in all areas, but if an SLO has been created for a course or service, it should be assessed.

So, DRAM 105, Introduction to Dramatic Arts, has SLO's that align with

- Critical Thinking
- Communication
- Self Awareness/Interpersonal Skills
- Global Awareness

For this course, assessments covering the four areas listed above should have been run over the last four years. If that is the case, then the SLO's for this course are complete, and no assessments need be run next year. However, if one of the aligned SLO's was not assessed, then it should be done this year.

What constitutes an appropriate assessment?

That is up to the program to determine, but remember, you must sample an adequate number of students to get a base reading.