

Course Assessment Quick Start Guide

What is Assessment? Why do we need to assess our courses?

- Assessment is the continuous process of systematically collecting, evaluating, and using information about the student experience to assist in approving teaching and learning.
- It is mandated by ACCJC, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, that we engage in assessment, evaluation and reflection.

What do I need to know about assessing Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)?

- Definition of an SLO: The measurable knowledge, skills, attitudes and habits of mind that students take with them from the learning experience.
- Learning outcomes exist at the course (SLOs), program (PLOs) and institutional level (ILOs).
- Faculty should focus on assessing their courses and programs. ILOs are mapped to SLOs and PLOs in TracDat.

How often do I need to assess the SLOs and PLOs?

At Cañada College:

- A. All active courses shall be assessed at regular intervals, and all departments shall arrange all active courses on a three-year assessment cycle.
- B. For specific SLO and PLO assessment schedules, refer to <u>your department's</u> <u>assessment cycle</u>.

What do we do with our assessment results?

Faculty should enter their SLO and PLO assessment results into <u>TracDat</u>. SLO and PLO assessment is also analyzed and reported in Program Review.

Who should I contact if I need help with assessment?

If you have questions about TracDat, please contact: Allison Hughes, Instructional Technologist Email: hughesa@smccd.edu Phone:650-306-3213 | Office: 13-203 If you have questions about assessing SLOs, please contact: Jessica Kaven, Faculty Assessment Coordinator Email: kavenj@smccd.edu Phone: (650) 306-3347 | Office: 13-209A

Where can I find more information, or TracDat tutorials?

Cañada College TracDat Website



What are SLOs, PLOs, and ILOs?

SLOs

Student Learning Outcomes

• They are the measurable knowledge, skills, attitudes and habits of mind that students take with them from the learning experience in the course. Describes how students will be different because of the learning experience.

PLOs Program L

Program Learning Outcomes

• They are the measurable knowledge, skills, attitudes and habits of mind that students take with them from the learning experience in the program.

ILOs

Institutional Learning Outcomes

• They are the measurable knowledge, skills, attitudes and habits of mind that students take with them from their experience at the institution. ILOs could be in or outside of the classroom.

How do SLOs, PLOs, and ILOs relate to one another?

SLOs – from COMM 127

- 1. Create and compose argumentative texts and/or oral presentations. (Mapped to PLOs 1-3)
- 2. Distinguish between factual statements and inferential reasoning in texts and oral rhetoric. (Mapped to PLOs 2&3)
- 3. Evaluate the validity and soundness of arguments. (Mapped to PLOs 2&3)
- 4. Classify and analyze common fallacies of language and thought in argumentative prose and/or oral presentations. (*Mapped to PLOs 1-3*)

PLOs – from the Social Sciences Program	SLOs are mapped to the PLOs that they assess.

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1. Analyze social science concepts and theories. (Mapped to ILOs 1-5)

- 2. Evaluate diverse viewpoints related to the human experience. (Mapped to ILOs 1-5)
- 3. Produce evidence-based argument. (Mapped to ILOs 1, 3&4)

ILOs – from Cañada College	PLOs (and their SLOs) are mapped to the ILOs that they assess.
 Critical Thinking: Select, evaluate, and use information to investigate a point of view, support a conclusion, or engage in problem solving. Creativity: Produce, combine, or synthesize ideas in creative ways within or across disciplines. 	
3. Communication: Use language to	o effectively convey an idea or a set of facts, including and evidence according to institutional and discipline
4. Community: Understand and inte world of peoples and cultures.	rpret various points of view that emerge from a diverse
5. Quantitative Reasoning: Represe	ent complex data in various mathematical forms (e.g., and words) and analyze these data to draw appropriate