



OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

Instructions for Discipline Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) Summary Recommendations Form

Once each campus has had the opportunity to review the course assessment data and make observations, there should be a collegewide discipline discussion for the purpose of developing **recommendations**. The purpose of this discussion is to share observations and adopt recommendations for collegewide, or campus-based implementation, as appropriate.

Discipline discussions will most optimally take place during a professional week when Collegewide gatherings are more easily achieved. Preliminary recommendations and observations should be shared regarding student achievement and the process. These discussions should result in a list of recommendations which the discipline and campuses will undertake in the next two to three years. At a minimum, recommendations should address each concern the discipline noted.

Recommendations should generally take two forms:

1. Identification of specific activities or practices that are working and can be replicated (i.e. communicating and replicating best practices) or
2. Identification of areas of weakness and specific activities or practices that can be used to improve student learning experiences. (i.e. improving student learning.)

Please Note: We often see recommendations which focus only on the OA project or the OA tool. While those may be **useful if you are going to repeat the assessment in the next semester**, recommendations that primarily focus on the assessment tool or process are less connected to improving student learning. Recommendations should be **specific and action oriented** so that they can be incorporated into practice as soon as possible. Recommendations that indicate reassessment of courses to measure change over a period of time should also be considered.

Instructions for discipline discussions:

1. Share copies of the assessment instrument, the rubric, the data report, and the Observations Form with those involved in the discussion. (The majority of faculty collegewide who typically teach the course should be involved in this discussion.)
2. Plan a collegewide meeting to discuss the process, materials, results and recommendations. (You may want to use a discipline meeting.)
3. Discuss the assessment materials, the course, and the results using the suggested questions below or other questions you might develop. (Please contact the OA Team if you would like a team member to facilitate your meeting.)
4. Based on your discussion, develop **recommendations** that the campuses and the disciplines will implement in the next two years. **At a minimum, the discipline should put forward recommendations to address each area of concern.**
5. Send the summary of recommendations to each dean who is responsible for the discipline requesting comment and sign off.
6. Turn in an electronic copy of the form and forward dean approvals to the COAT at (outcomes@montgomerycollege.edu) by the due date in June.

Suggested Discussion Questions

Learning Outcomes:

- Were the learning outcomes that were assessed core outcomes for the course; that is, did they describe the kind of analytic or critical thinking, or skills and abilities, that the discipline feels all successful students should take away from the course?
- Were students made aware of these learning outcomes prior to the assessment, and if so how?

Assessment Instrument:

- Did the assessment questions or assignments assess the learning outcomes; that is, did student performance on these provide strong information about how well students achieved the learning outcomes?
- Were the assessment questions or assignments clearly worded?
- Do classroom experiences align with or support the intended outcomes and the assessment, so that students are prepared to succeed?

Assessment Rubric:

- For assessment questions that weren't objective in nature, e.g., multiple choice or fill in the blank, was your scoring rubric clear and easy to apply?
- Did the rubric adequately reflect the standards that your discipline adheres to?

Assessment Process:

- Was communication about the expectations of the process clear and early enough to all instructors who participated in the full-scale implementation?
- Was the assessment administered with reasonable uniformity across all sections; e.g., approximately the same timeframe of the semester, similar explanations to students, etc.
- Did instructors understand how to enter data into the scoring spreadsheets?

Assessment Results:

- What do the assessment results say about how well all students, or particular subgroups of students based on the data breakouts, achieve the intended learning outcomes?
- Are there new or different things that the discipline thinks would be worth trying that might improve future results?
- Is there additional analysis of the existing data that might provide greater insight into the meaning of the results?

Overall Strengths

- What general strengths or positive observations arise from this OA project?
- What results or observations should be acknowledged as strengths?

Overall Concerns

- What concerns are raised by the results?
- What concerns are raised by this OA project?