

the **PROGRESS** March 1, 2017 **REPORT**



Student Learning Outcomes

Assessment, Meaning and Continuous Quality Improvement

The instructional programs at Cerro Coso Community College have been actively engaged in assessing student learning since 2006. Over the past several semesters, we have made great leaps in ensuring that all courses and programs are assessed. The rate of assessment of course-level student learning outcomes (CSLO's) has increased from 62.53% in spring 2015 to 84% in fall 2016! These numbers reflect a lot of work on the part of faculty and departments to actively and meaningfully evaluate student learning. We are steadily moving towards our goal: 95% of courses and programs assessed on a regular basis.

Finding Meaning

Assessment of student learning is not a new concept and was done well before there were acronyms and targets. Effective teachers are constantly reflecting on their practice, observing student performance, and identifying strategies to improve their craft. The purpose of outcomes assessment is to identify strengths and weaknesses and to ensure students are leaving the class/program having learned the right knowledge, attitudes, competencies, and skills. This is the concept of continuous quality improvement: that through reflection, dialogue, and design and implementation of intentional strategies we make incremental enhancements in student learning and achievement.

For example, in a recent spring survey about strategic planning and SLO's of those who responded:

- 75% have used assessment data to identify gaps in learning or service
- 73% have adjusted teaching/learning or operational strategies based on assessment results
- 69% identified meaningful trends that informed teaching or service strategies

The aim of assessment is not compliance with accreditors – its goal is informed action that enhances student learning.

~ Barbara E. Walvoord

Important Dates

Planning

First Budget Committee Mtg.
Feb 28th, 9:00-11:00, EW 207

Program Reviews Due May 2017
Administration of Justice
Computer Information Systems
Information Technology
Web Professional

Did you know?

Alphabet Soup! Do you know what these acronyms mean?

SLO (also CSLO) - Course Student Learning Outcomes: Knowledge, attitudes, competencies, and skills a student has achieved through completing the course.

PLO - Program Learning Outcomes: Overarching "products" of programs, knowledge, attitudes, competencies gained at the end of a certificates and degrees.

GELO – General Education Learning Outcomes (affectionately known as "jello's"!): The outcomes associated with one of the three general education patterns at Cerro Coso.

ILO- Institutional Learning Outcomes: The four core competencies expected of all students completing ANY program at Cerro Coso: citizenship, communication, critical thinking, and information competency.