

ACADEMIC SLO DEFINITIONS

Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes: The systematic collection, analysis, interpretation, and use of information to understand and improve teaching and learning. (Tom Angelo)

SLO Assessment Plan – a planning document outlining the college's assessment procedures for SLOs at Southwestern College.

Institutional SLOs (formerly known as Core Competencies) – are the four critical skills for students to develop during their course work at Southwestern College. Our Institutional SLOs include 1) Communication Skills, 2) Thinking and Reasoning Skills, 3) Information Competency, and 4) Global Awareness. Competencies in these areas result in students who are prepared to graduate, transfer, or enter the workforce.

Course Objectives – statements that tell students what course specific skills, information, knowledge, and understanding will be taught during a course. Course objectives are the building blocks of course SLOs.

Discipline - a group of courses that are related by some common characteristics or goals. The disciplines for each school are defined by the school discipline faculty and dean in order to more effectively review the entire curriculum. A discipline may consist of more than one program.

Measure – refers to the actual tool used to assess the learning of students. Examples of measures include projects, tests, oral presentations, etc.

Program – organized sequence of courses leading to a defined goal in terms of: a degree, transfer plan, certificate, and includes career/technical or life-long learning.

Program Student Learning Outcome – outcomes for students based on completion of one or more of the following: 1) degree, 2) transfer, 3) certificate, 4) plan for life-long learning, or 5) employment/career advancement.

SWC Outcome Rubric – educational scoring guide for assessing students' understanding and attainment of SLOs. The Outcome Rubric contains a scale describing the quality of understanding and attainment for each SLO

as well as the number of points to be given at each level of the scale.

Student Learning Outcome (SLO) Goal – to develop and implement a sustainable quality improvement cycle to refine our curriculum and instruction using feedback from course and program assessment of SLOs during the annual Academic Program Review.

Student Learning Outcome (SLO) – clear statement of outcomes for students after their active participation in a course or program of study. Attainment of outcomes is dependent on student engagement in instruction, completion of learning activities, study of course material, and successful completion of assessment measures.