



Academic SLO Philosophy

Mission Statement

Southwestern Community College District serves a diverse community of students by providing a wide range of dynamic and high quality educational programs and comprehensive student services.

The District provides educational opportunities in the following areas:

- associate degree and certificate programs;
- transfer;
- professional, technical, and career advancement;
- basic skills;
- personal enrichment;
- non-credit adult education;
- community services; and
- economic, workforce, and community development

We promote student learning and success by committing to continuous improvement that includes planning, implementation, assessment, and evaluation.

Student Learning Outcome Philosophy

Learning is more than simply memorizing facts; it demands that students participate as they discover and utilize resources, master concepts and apply knowledge to solve problems, and that students think critically about their learning. The entire college works together with our students to support this growth and development of our students as independent life long learners. Our SLOs have been designed to foster this conception of learning.

Assessment of SLOs

When embedded effectively within our larger institutional system, SLO assessment not only monitors how well students learn, but it also focuses our attention on the examination of our assumptions about student learning and our methods of instruction. Because students better understand their roles and potential outcomes, they become partners in learning. Our institution continues to plan and provide effective learning opportunities and student support services using assessment results in an environment that improves the quality of education on our campus (Angelo).

As a part of Program Review assessment is an ongoing process aimed at understanding and improving Student Learning Outcomes. It involves:

- Making our expectations explicit and public; identifying clear and appropriate criteria for students
- Systematically gathering, analyzing, and interpreting evidence to determine how well Student Learning Outcomes match expectations
- Using the resulting information to document, explain, and improve Student Learning Outcomes.



Southwestern College Student Learning Outcome assessment is generated through multiple measures to collect quantitative and qualitative information in an effort to improve courses, services, programs, and all student experiences. The data provides assistance for planning, allocation of resources, organizational leadership, and staff and student development. Finally, the SLO assessment results are never used as a part of faculty evaluation due to the student behavior variables that are beyond faculty control.