

MEASUREMENT OPTIONS

Our Faculty Senate developed course-embedded assessment methods to assess the SLOs for individual courses. The use of rubrics and eLumen to house assessment results is a simple way to identify criteria and method of assessment for our students. The goal is that our students will quickly become adept at using rubric information posted to guide their participation in class assignments and study for tests. Over time rubric criteria can be refined so that the language clearly communicates faculty expectations for assignments and tests. Samples of student work that exemplifies the different criteria can be posted to further reinforce student understanding of expectations for work, study, and participation. We support student feedback as an additional way to refine and improve both our directions for assignments/tests and measurement tools. The intent is to increase student understanding, motivation, and confidence as they approach course measurement tasks.

To get started, faculty can choose one major assignment that measures specific course SLOs.

- Assess the assignment using a rubric that articulates specific standards and criteria.
- If the assignment is a major exam, faculty can look at specific groups of questions that address the SLO.
- Faculty evaluate the results of the students' assessments, note what student needs and issues were revealed and how the assignment or teaching activities could be altered to improve student learning.
- Faculty dialogue about their results in department meetings, sharing their assignments, their evaluation of the results and their ideas for improvement, including what assistance the college could provide to improve student learning.

A faculty member records meeting minutes that include the issues and suggestions that arise during the discussion. In keeping with the Southwestern College's assessment philosophy that assessment is not "a means to evaluate individual faculty or staff," no individual instructor's name or results are recorded on the form. Instead the overall departmental results are summarized and its plans to improve teaching and learning are the main focus. The meeting minutes are housed in the school office. As a part of Academic Program Review, the Summary Work Plan is updated with any additional actions to be taken to improve curriculum and instruction added completing the information on the plan matrix.