

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Policies

At the April 29, 2010 meeting of the Faculty Senate, the following campus-wide assessment policies, which were developed by the Learning Outcomes Oversight Committee (LOOC) and approved by the Office of the Provost, were ratified:

Policy#1. Academic Program Engagement: All undergraduate, professional, and graduate academic programs at URI shall be actively engaged in student learning outcomes assessment as evidenced by, but not limited to:

- a) *Published student learning outcomes* that are clear statements of what students are expected to gain, achieve, demonstrate or know at the completion of the academic program. These student learning outcomes shall be published on the program's website via a link to the website for the Office of Student Learning, Outcomes Assessment, and Accreditation (SLOAA). These student learning outcomes shall be periodically reviewed by the academic program for ongoing relevance.
- b) *A plan of student learning outcomes assessment* that is endorsed by the program's faculty. Plans should include a regular and predictable cycle for collecting and analyzing assessment data, for discussing curricular and programmatic changes, for implementing interventions, and for re-assessing the impact of implemented changes. Outcomes assessment plans will be published on program's website via a link to the SLOAA website.
- c) *Reports of student learning outcomes assessment* that are provided to SLOAA using staggered cycles of no more than 3 years. Cycles for accredited programs will be adjusted to decrease redundancy of effort.

Policy#2. SLOAA Guidance for Academic Programs: Guidelines for preparation of outcomes assessment plans and reports shall be provided by SLOAA with the assistance and approval of the Learning Outcomes Oversight Committee (LOOC). SLOAA shall offer advice on the logistics of collecting assessment data, support for analyzing the results, and feedback on designing curricular and programmatic changes. Rubrics for evaluating the plans and reports shall be generated by SLOAA and posted on its website.

Policy#3. Review and Approval of Plans and Reports: Evaluation of student learning outcomes assessment plans and reports shall be made by SLOAA and presented to LOOC for required approval. Programs shall be notified directly of the results of the evaluation and whether modification is needed. Reports shall be published on the SLOAA website. In its annual report to the Faculty Senate, LOOC shall provide commendations for outstanding examples of student learning outcomes assessment as well as a general summary on outcomes assessment.

Policy#4. University-Wide Student Learning Outcomes Assessment: With the approval of LOOC, and in conjunction with the Office of Institutional Research, SLOAA will work with other university offices to collect, maintain, analyze, and distribute student learning outcomes assessment findings, derived from a variety of local and national sources. SLOAA will identify patterns of student performance to inform ongoing program and institutional improvement.