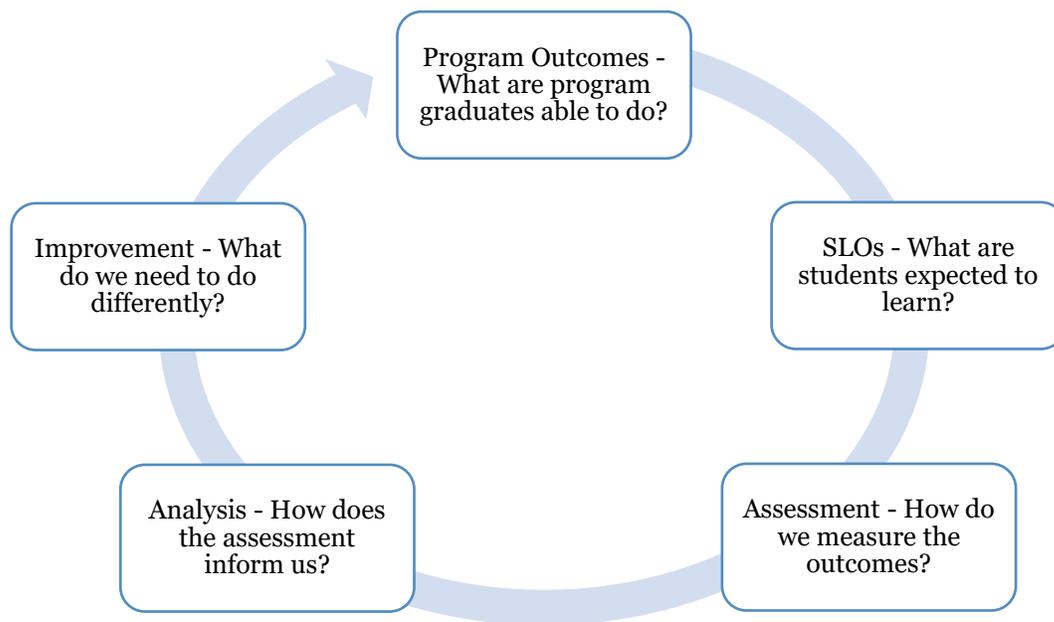




Assessing Student Learning Outcomes

Identifying and assessing student learning outcomes is critical in the teaching-learning process. **Student learning outcomes** (SLOs) describe the knowledge and skills students gain by the time they complete a program of study. At UNC-Chapel Hill, faculty lead efforts to identify student learning outcomes, assess these outcomes using discipline-appropriate measures, and use assessment results to enhance the quality of programs to support student learning.

The Assessment Process



Student learning outcomes should be:

- **Measurable** - describing what can be observed and verified with evidence
- **Student-Centered** – measuring what students actually learn
- **Faculty-Driven** – reflecting what department faculty agree a student should know or be able to do as a result of completing the program.



Assessment Methods describe the data sources and approaches used to collect and analyze the data to assess student learning outcomes.

- **Direct measures** provide evidence of student learning. Examples include:
 - Exams and quizzes
 - Direct observations of fieldwork, clinical experiences, experiments
 - Portfolios
 - Capstone projects, senior theses, exhibits, or performances
 - Internship supervisor ratings of students' performance
 - Demonstrations or presentations
- **Indirect measures** offer evidence of changes in students' beliefs, perceptions and attitudes. Examples include:
 - Course evaluations
 - Alumni Surveys
 - Focus groups
 - interviews
- **Key Question to Consider:** Does this measure provide specific evidence to illustrate student learning outcomes?
- **Assessment methods can be unobtrusive and embedded in coursework.** Integrating assessment in the design of the course/program allows us to embed assessment into the course/program activities. Assessment of SLOs is done best when it is not viewed as an added-on component, rather, an integral component of the program.
- **Assessment schedule** articulates when each SLO is assessed and how frequently each assessment measure is used. It is not necessary to measure all outcomes using all methods every year.

Reporting Results involves summarizing the findings from your assessment.

- Report whether student learning outcomes were accomplished.
- Highlight program accomplishments based on assessment data.
- Summarize unexpected findings and provide interpretations.
- Describe your results so that someone unfamiliar with your field can understand. Use tables and graphs to clarify your results to the audience. Other program reports and surveys can be attached as supplemental materials.

Describing Improvements includes documenting how the results of your assessment efforts have been reviewed by faculty and used to make changes to the program.

Reports are due December 31, 2019.

Contact Dr. Bryant Hutson, Director of Assessment, at bhutson@email.unc.edu for additional information or support. To learn more about assessment planning, reporting and timelines, please visit the link below.

<http://go.unc.edu/Assessment>

