

WSSU Institutional/Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs): Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What are WSSU institutional/student learning outcomes (SLOs)?

A: WSSU has seven institutional learning outcomes: Critical Reading, Critical Thinking, Information Literacy, Oral Communication, Quantitative Literacy, Scientific Literacy, and Written Communication. These outcomes represent the essential skills that all students receiving a bachelor's degree from WSSU should possess. Institutional learning outcomes are an integral part of the Strategic Plan (Objective 1.2) and reaccreditation requirements.

Q: How are WSSU institutional learning outcomes assessed?

A: WSSU's goal is to incorporate and assess the seven student learning outcomes across the curriculum as well as in co-curricular activities. Data for courses and co-curricular activities mapped to a WSSU student learning outcome are submitted through an online survey. Units are also encouraged to report and store additional information in Nuventive Improve (TracDat), the university's assessment management system. Faculty and other stakeholders make recommendations and changes based on the data collected.

Q: How do I know if I'm teaching a course mapped to a WSSU SLO?

A: A list of the current semester's courses mapped to a WSSU SLO can be found on Institutional Assessment & Research's [student learning outcomes page](#). This list is created from Banner data. There is also a generic inventory on the [general education website](#). As majors participate in the curriculum coherency project, additional courses and activities will be mapped to institutional learning outcomes. If you are unsure how your classes are mapped to WSSU SLOs, you should ask your department chair before you begin teaching the class.

Q: I've been told I need to submit data for my course that maps to a WSSU SLO. What does that mean?

A: Faculty members teaching courses mapped to WSSU SLOs are expected to apply the appropriate rubric to a course assignment/artifact/activity, which is why it's important that you know how your class is mapped before you begin teaching it.

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Faculty members are then asked to report course-level rubric data (i.e., the number of students who scored at each level of assessed rubric components for each unique course) through an online data collection portal/survey managed by Institutional Assessment & Research (IAR).

If you are responsible for a co-curricular activity that utilizes a WSSU SLO rubric, you can also submit your data through the data collection portal. Relevant members of the campus community will be emailed when the portal is available, and you can find additional information on IAR's [student learning outcomes page](#).

Q: Where can I find the WSSU student learning outcomes rubrics?

A: Rubrics are available in the "Resources" portion of IAR's [student learning outcomes page](#).

Q: What if I didn't assess every rubric component in the class/co-curricular activity?

A: That's okay—you should report the data you have. From a data reporting perspective, if you were unable to collect data for any of the learning components, you leave the performance level boxes associated with the particular learning component(s) blank. Zeros should be used if you collected data on the learning component, but no students scored at that particular performance level.

Remember that the SLO assessment rubrics detail not only levels of competence (e.g., 1-Benchmark, 2-Milestone, 3-Milestone, 4-Capstone) but also competence within subscales/components of the outcomes. Not every course has to embed all the components. For example, a beginning level course may focus on two of the components while a 4000 level course should challenge students to demonstrate mastery of most, if not all, of the components of a given SLO.

Q: Where can I access data collected on institutional learning outcomes?

A: Aggregate results from data collection for spring 2015-present can be found on in the "Resources" section of IAR's [student learning outcomes page](#). Additional major-level data should be stored in the university's assessment management

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system (Nuventive Improve/TracDat) and can be accessed by relevant personnel. Additional information, such as survey results relating to institutional learning outcomes and infographics, can also be found on IAR's [student learning outcomes page](#). Contact Institutional Assessment & Research (750-8036) if you have questions about accessing results.

Q: Who do I contact for help?

A: The Center for Innovative and Transformative Instruction (CITI) will be responsible for overseeing the faculty groups associated with each institutional outcome and coordinating other training and learning opportunities. The Curriculum Coherency Committee can also serve as a resource for ensuring WSSU student learning outcomes are prevalent in courses across the curriculum. For assistance with data reporting, contact Institutional Assessment & Research.