



Academic Program Assessment Glossary

Asynchronous delivery

Instruction that does not occur in real time; content is made available to students and accessed at their convenience

Benchmark

The clearly stated level at which a program considers its program learning outcome (PLO) to be met or achieved on a given measure

Closing the loop

Analyzing results from outcome assessment, using the results to make changes to improve student learning, and re-assessing outcomes to determine the effect those changes had on student learning.

Continuous improvement

An ongoing, coordinated, faculty-driven effort to ensure the delivery of quality education to all students includes establishing intentionally designed program learning outcomes, assessing the extent to which students achieve those learning outcomes, and informed reflection to reinforce and enhance current success and redirect efforts as needed to ensure future success

Data-informed action

Typically, a curricular change based on outcome assessment results, which is designed to improve student learning, describes the next steps to be taken in response to the assessment results.

Department Academic Liaison

Texas A&M International University and HelioCampus (formerly AEFIS) terminology for college, school, or department liaisons who provide internal feedback on program learning outcome assessment and provide the final review of the Assessment Report before submitting to the Office of Institutional Assessment, Research, and Planning

Distance education program

Degree programs or certificates which allows a student to complete more than one-half of the required semester credit hours required for the program through a combination of distance education courses (<https://www.tamtu.edu/distance/>)

Findings

Results from the analysis of assessment data

Format of delivery

The method by which program faculty deliver instruction to students in a traditional face-to-face or distance education program is categorized as synchronous delivery, asynchronous delivery, or both

Measure

A term describing the process by which assessment data is collected and evaluated, including what the data is, who it is collected by and from, and the methodology used to analyze it

Mode of delivery

The method by which *most* of the program's curriculum is offered to students, categorized as face-to-face or via technology

Program Coordinator

Texas A&M International University and HelioCampus terminology for individuals who are responsible for documenting assessment information and submitting assigned program assessment forms

Program learning outcome (PLO)

A skill or competency students are expected to articulate or demonstrate by the time they graduate from the academic program and/or complete the requirements for a certificate

Student learning outcome (SLO)

A skill or competency students are expected to articulate or demonstrate; SLOs are defined at multiple levels (e.g., course, program, institution, and system levels)

Synchronous delivery

Instruction is available to and accessed by students in real-time with the instructor