

Closing the Loop: Guiding Questions

The following questions are offered as prompts to assist departments/programs in “closing the loop” on student learning assessment. While departments are not obligated to respond to each of these questions, consideration of these issues should prove useful as you make decisions about potential curricular/pedagogical changes and improvements to your assessment practice to ensure that it is meaningful, feasible, and authentic to your goals, your faculty, and your students.

Student Learning

- What did you learn about your students’ learning?
- Did your students meet the standards or benchmarks you established?
- With which PLOs or aspects of PLOs are your students outstanding? What, if any, are areas where students are struggling or weaker?
- Scaffolding from two angles: Looking at your curricular map, do students have adequate opportunities to engage with each PLO prior to when they should be demonstrating mastery? Are there some PLOs that are over-represented at an introductory level across courses (e.g. a single PLO that students engage in at an introductory level in multiple required courses)?
- What changes have you made and/or do you plan to make to improve student learning?

Assessment Practice

- How well do your PLOs articulate the knowledge, skills, and dispositions that are unique to your program?
- How effective are your current methods for truly assessing student achievement?
- How is your assessment of student learning woven into the existing curriculum (use of embedded coursework, exhibitions, etc.) and how could that be improved?
- In what ways is accessing/gathering student work for assessment easy? In what ways is it difficult?
- To what extent do your rubrics thoroughly cover the PLO to be assessed with cogent language describing distinct performance levels?
- In what ways have you incorporated indirect measures (GSS data, job placement, etc.) into your assessment conversations?
- To what extent are your annual assessment results giving you useful information for improving the student experience for your majors?
- How are assessment results shared with the faculty in your department?
- What sorts of tools would make assessment more feasible in your department?
- What changes do you plan to make to improve your assessment practice?