



Course Assessment Quick Start Guide

What is Assessment? Why do we need to assess our courses?

- Assessment is the continuous process of systematically collecting, evaluating, and using information about the student experience to assist in improving teaching and learning.
- It is mandated by ACCJC, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, that we engage in assessment, evaluation and reflection.

What do I need to know about assessing Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)?

- Definition of an SLO: The measurable knowledge, skills, attitudes and habits of mind that students take with them from the learning experience.
- Learning outcomes exist at the course (SLOs), program (PLOs) and institutional level (ILOs).
- Faculty should focus on assessing their courses and programs. ILOs are mapped to SLOs and PLOs in TracDat.

How often do I need to assess the SLOs and PLOs?

At Cañada College:

- A. All active courses shall be assessed at regular intervals, and all departments shall arrange all active courses on a three-year assessment cycle.
- B. For specific SLO and PLO assessment schedules, refer to [your department's assessment cycle](#).

What do we do with our assessment results?

Faculty should enter their SLO and PLO assessment results into [TracDat](#). SLO and PLO assessment is also analyzed and reported in Program Review.

Who should I contact if I need help with assessment?

If you have questions about TracDat, please contact:
Allison Hughes, Instructional Technologist
Email: hughesa@smccd.edu
Phone: 650-306-3213 | Office: 13-203

If you have questions about assessing SLOs, please contact:
Jessica Kaven, Faculty Assessment Coordinator
Email: kavenj@smccd.edu
Phone: (650) 306-3347 | Office: 13-209A

Where can I find more information, or TracDat tutorials?

[Cañada College TracDat Website](#)

What are SLOs, PLOs, and ILOs?

SLOs

Student Learning Outcomes

- They are the measurable knowledge, skills, attitudes and habits of mind that students take with them from the learning experience in the course. Describes how students will be different because of the learning experience.

PLOs

Program Learning Outcomes

- They are the measurable knowledge, skills, attitudes and habits of mind that students take with them from the learning experience in the program.

ILOs

Institutional Learning Outcomes

- They are the measurable knowledge, skills, attitudes and habits of mind that students take with them from their experience at the institution. ILOs could be in or outside of the classroom.

How do SLOs, PLOs, and ILOs relate to one another?

