

University Policies: Academics

Assessment

Extracted from the SDSU Senate policy (August 31, 2023)

1.0 Faculty shall be responsible to their students, colleagues, and the community for providing competent and ever improving instruction and programmatic quality. The purpose of assessing Degree Learning Outcomes shall be to identify opportunities to improve teaching, learning, and academic advising at the individual, course, programmatic, and institutional level.

2.0 In order to assess the extent to which students are achieving their Degree Learning Outcomes, San Diego State University shall be committed to systematic evaluation of instructional programs. Such evaluation shall extend both to broad interdisciplinary programs such as General Education and to degree-related programs within specific disciplines and departments or schools. The university shall encourage department and school faculties to engage in assessment research related to teaching and learning, and to disseminate such efforts through scholarly peer-reviewed venues.

3.0 Evidence of student achievement with respect to assessment shall not be used to evaluate individual faculty members or to publicly compare departments, schools, or institutions. Where assessment evidence is presented within lecturer evaluations or faculty retention, tenure, and promotion process, the evaluative focus shall be on the approach that the instructor has taken to demonstrate where students are with respect to desired outcomes and the evidence-based pedagogical and curricular actions undertaken to improve student achievement.

4.0 Assessment of student learning shall:

- a) Be used directly by disciplinary faculty to (a) articulate educational outcomes, (b) develop assessment methodologies to evaluate student achievement with regard to these outcomes, (c) undertake curricular planning, revision, and improvement;
- b) Be characterized by an approach that embraces multiple methods in order to provide valid information for improving academic programs;
- c) Be driven by the faculty, who shall have the primary responsibility for deciding how to assess, that is, how to design, select, and administer assessment methods, to interpret the results, and determine how the data shall be used to improve programs;
- d) Be part of strategic planning efforts that include consideration of sufficient resources to carry out the plan;
- e) Facilitate discussion of and agreement upon common principles across disciplines in programs such as General Education and identify or develop assessment mechanisms to evaluate student performance;
- f) Articulate programmatic and instructional goals and expectations and make these public to students and the general public;
- g) Open new areas of discussion with community colleges for coordinated assessment and curricular planning to improve student access and retention;
- h) Be reported within the established university-wide relational database (i.e., WEAVE Online);
- i) Be an integral component of the Academic Program Review process for departments, schools, and programs.

5.0 In addition to its primary roles of improving program effectiveness and promoting student achievement, data collected for academic assessment purposes may also be published or otherwise publicly disseminated as the scholarship of teaching and learning. If the data obtained in an assessment process are intended for eventual public dissemination, for example—in the form of journal publications or conference presentations—then the data protocol shall have received prior approval through San Diego State University's Human Research Protection Program. Interested faculty should consult with their college representative on the Student Learning Outcomes and Program Assessment Committee and the Human Research Protection Program staff for more information.

6.0 Student Support Services: Student outcomes assessment of co curricular activities, which are integral to student learning, shall be necessary for a complete picture of students' campus experience. These activities may involve the library, academic advising, counseling and career planning, housing, financial aid services, extracurricular activities, health services, and campus climate.