Assessment

Frequently asked questions: Non-instructional units

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Abbreviations—for explanations visit www.honolulu.hawaii.edu/assessment:
• SAO (Service Area Outcomes)
• ILO (Institutional Learning Outcomes)

I. Calendar

1. How often do I report in eLumen?
   Every Spring (i.e., the end of the fiscal and academic year) or every semester depending on your operations.

2. What if I do not complete the report in eLumen?
   Your reports will show as incomplete until you submit them.

II. Content

3. Where can I find the guides and video tutorials on eLumen?
   At https://www.honolulu.hawaii.edu/assessment under “Evidence”

4. What information do I need to report on in eLumen?
   • In the SCORECARD, indicate how many participants or cases met, or not met, each SAO (there is also a N/A option if you need it).
   • In the ACTION PLAN, summarize: (a) what worked well, (b) what needs adjustments, and (c) what methods you used. Please share rich responses, so we can compile best practices and insightful plans for our campus. For the exact questions, click here.

5. Do I have to report on all my SAOs?
   Yes.

6. Can I skip the numerical data?
   No. You have the option to indicate if the assessment was met, not met, or was N/A. Your assessment should contribute to our campus data, rather than being left out.

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7. Can I skip the narrative?
No. Narrative should be insightful, regardless of the numerical performance.

8. Can I upload a document in eLumen?
No.

9. Can I update my SAOs in eLumen?
Your Unit Coordinator can prior to the start of the semester. Please email to discuss.

10. Are SAOs mapped to other outcomes?
No, they are mapped to the mission of your area. However, always keep in mind our ILOs because the whole campus supports our students’ ultimate outcomes.

11. What if my assessment results are low?
Having a variety of assessment results is natural and realistic. Overtime, SAOs generally stand above the 70% benchmark. Use the narrative to reflect on what can be tried differently next time.

III. Reports

12. What assessment data can Coordinators pull?
Coordinators run reports on their unit(s) SAOs and use them as reference during departmental conversations. eLumen, and assessment in general, is not for unit-comparisons.

13. In what format can I export a report?
PDF, XLS, DOCX, HTML

IV. Rationales

14. Why following this assessment calendar?
- To allow longitudinal analysis as well as meaningful conversations within units and possible special assessments if needed.
- To ensure all units have some assessment data when needed (e.g., program reviews, accreditation, other reports)
- To ask the same effort from everyone
- To remember how to use eLumen and become comfortable utilizing its full capabilities

15. Why using an Assessment Management System like eLumen?
- Secure—Approved by UH Data Governance approval.
- Integrated—Pulls section information from Banner
- Confidential—Reports do not include student/faculty details (e.g., names, demographics, IDs).
- Mapped—Includes a curriculum map
• Analytical—Results are displayed in table, chart, and narrative formats:
  o Outcome listing
  o Curriculum map
  o Completion reports
  o Action Plans
  o Outcome performance

16. Why doing assessment?

• Improvement: Assessment findings are meant to be used in departmental and campus-wide conversations in order to improve student learning and experience.

• Mandates:
  o Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC): Accreditation Standards
  o Board of Regents Policy:
    ▪ Institutional Accountability and Performance (RP 4.205, 2002 and recodified in 2014)
    ▪ Planning (Chapter 4)
    ▪ Academic Services (Chapter 5)
  o Executive Policy:
    ▪ Approval of New Academic Programs and Review of Provisional Academic Programs (EP 5.201, 2020)
    ▪ Institutional Accountability and Performance (EP 5.210, 2014)
    ▪ Classification plan, Faculty (EP 5.221, Attachment 3, 2011)
  o UHCC Policy: Review of Established Programs (5.202, Attachment 1-A, Attachment 1-B, Attachment 2, Attachment 3, Attachment 4; ARPD template)
  o Honolulu Community College: Educational and Strategic Plan (2016-2021)
V. Enclosures:

1. **HonCC Mission**: Honolulu Community College provides accessible educational opportunities through an engaging learning environment that values academic excellence and personal growth of all students, with a kuleana (responsibility) to Native Hawaiians and our community, through career, liberal arts, technology, transfer, and professional training programs.

2. **Core values**: Student-Centered and Student Focused, Indigenous Serving, Diversity and Equity

3. **ACCJC I B.5**: The institution assesses accomplishment of its mission through program review and evaluation of goals and objectives, student **learning outcomes**, and student achievement. Quantitative and qualitative data are **disaggregated** for analysis by program type and mode of delivery.

4. **ACCJC I B.6**: The institution **disaggregates** and analyzes **learning outcomes** and achievement for subpopulations of students. When the institution identifies performance gaps, it implements strategies, which may include allocation or reallocation of human, fiscal and other resources, to mitigate those gaps and evaluates the efficacy of those strategies.

5. **ACCJC**: Presentation on SLO data disaggregation

6. **ACCJC**: Manual

- For data to be a useful and reliable source of information for reflection, planning, and decision-making, it should be accurate and tested for validity and significance, current and complete, consistently used, derived from reliable sources, and used longitudinally and in **disaggregated** form, as appropriate. (p. 17)
- ACCJC has developed a generic template for the presentation of **disaggregated** data (p. 19) (see ISER Template)
- Data should be in disaggregated form by **age, gender, ethnicity**, .... (pp. 22-23)
- Institutions accredited by the ACCJC need to demonstrate they assure the quality of DE/CE to the same extent as education delivered in face-to-face classes by providing **disaggregated** data and analysis (p. 26)

7. **Mandates:**

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<th>I. International</th>
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<td>UNESCO: Improve learning outcomes, Education 2030, Network for Learning Assessment</td>
<td>Advocates for assessment to ensure effective and relevant learning for all.</td>
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<th>II. National</th>
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<td>Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA): Accreditation and Student Learning Outcomes: Perspectives from Accrediting Organizations</td>
<td>Emphasizes that “accreditors identify student learning outcomes as playing a significant role in their formal actions (e.g. award or deny accreditation)” (2019, p. 4).</td>
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<th>III. Regional</th>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC): Accreditation Standards</strong></th>
<th>Mentions assessment dozens of times, including in the opening paragraph, “The effective institution ensures academic quality and continuous improvement through ongoing assessment of learning” (2014, p. 1).</th>
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<td><strong>WASC Senior College and University Commission: WSCUC Handbook</strong></td>
<td>Primarily Standards 2 and 4. Component 4 of the review also states “describe how the curriculum addresses each of the five core competencies, explain their learning outcomes in relation to those core competencies, and demonstrate, through evidence of student performance, the extent to which those outcomes are achieved.” The 5 core competencies are critical thinking, information literacy, oral communication, quantitative reasoning, and written communication, and must be evaluated and reported.</td>
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<td><strong>IV. University of Hawaii system</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Board of Regents Policy: Institutional Accountability and Performance (RP 4.205, 2002 and recodified in 2014)</strong></td>
<td>Commits to educational assessment processes that provide for the regular and systematic assessment of programs, campuses, and the university as a whole. The intent is to gather evidence about the institution’s effectiveness in meeting its mission, goals, and objectives, and to use this information to improve programs and services and demonstrate public accountability. Board policy purposefully decentralizes assessment activities, while maintaining an overall policy framework appropriate for a heterogeneous statewide public higher education system. Assessment of student learning outcomes is a responsibility to the faculty. Information collected is used to improve programs and services. Institutional assessment and accountability are focused on program and institutional performance rather than individual evaluation. To the extent possible, assessment activities shall be incorporated into existing program review/evaluation, accreditation, and institutional planning, budgeting, and tuition-setting processes.</td>
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<td><strong>Board of Regents Policy: Planning (Chapter 4)</strong></td>
<td>Writes that assessment of student learning outcomes is a responsibility of the faculty.</td>
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<td><strong>Board of Regents Policy: Academic Services (Chapter 5)</strong></td>
<td>Notes that instructional programs are systematically assessed to assure currency, improve teaching and learning, and achievement of student learning outcomes.</td>
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<td><strong>Office of the Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy, Executive Policy: Approval of New Academic Programs and Review of</strong></td>
<td>The objectives of the executive policy are: […] To assure the administration and the Board of Regents that provisions for meaningful assessment of student learning have been included in proposals for new academic programs, and reviews of provisional programs.”</td>
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| Provisional Academic Programs (EP 5.201, 2020). | Implemented by UHCC Policy 5.202 (see below) |
| Office of the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Executive Policy: Institutional Accountability and Performance (EP 5.210, 2014) | Demonstrates how assessment outcomes are used to (1) Take regular readings on how well the University is doing; (2) Guide educational decision-making, improve programs/services, further accountability, and demonstrate institutional quality and responsiveness; (3) Justify policy, procedural, and organizational changes; (4) Influence the delivery of student services; and (5) Establish the information base needed to respond to accountability concerns. |
| Office of the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs/Provost, Executive Policy: Classification plan, Faculty (EP 5.221, Attachment 3, 2011) | States that faculty members design measurable or observable learning outcomes, and assess and provide evidence of student learning. |
| UHCC Policy: Review of Established Programs (5.202, Attachment 1-A, Attachment 1-B, Attachment 2, Attachment 3, Attachment 4; ARPD template) | Establishes that program reviews include (1) list of PLOs or SAOs, (2) list of PLOs or SAOs that have been assessed with date, (3) assessment results, (4) analysis, (5) changes that have been made as a result of the assessment results, and (6) action plan. |
| **V. Honolulu Community College** |  |
| Honolulu Community College: Educational and Strategic Plan (2016-2021) | Indicates to use data in effective decision-making around campus operations, including assessment of outcomes on a continuous schedule and through discussion meetings. |

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