



# Course-Level Assessment

Office of Student Learning  
Outcomes

## The Assessment Process



- Assessment is the systematic collection and analysis of information to improve student learning.
- Goal of Assessment: To determine where there are weaknesses in student learning and seek ways to advance.



Write Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

They should be S.M.A.R.T

S – Specific

M- Measurable

A- Attainable

R- Results-Focused

T- Time-Focused

# How to Write SLOs

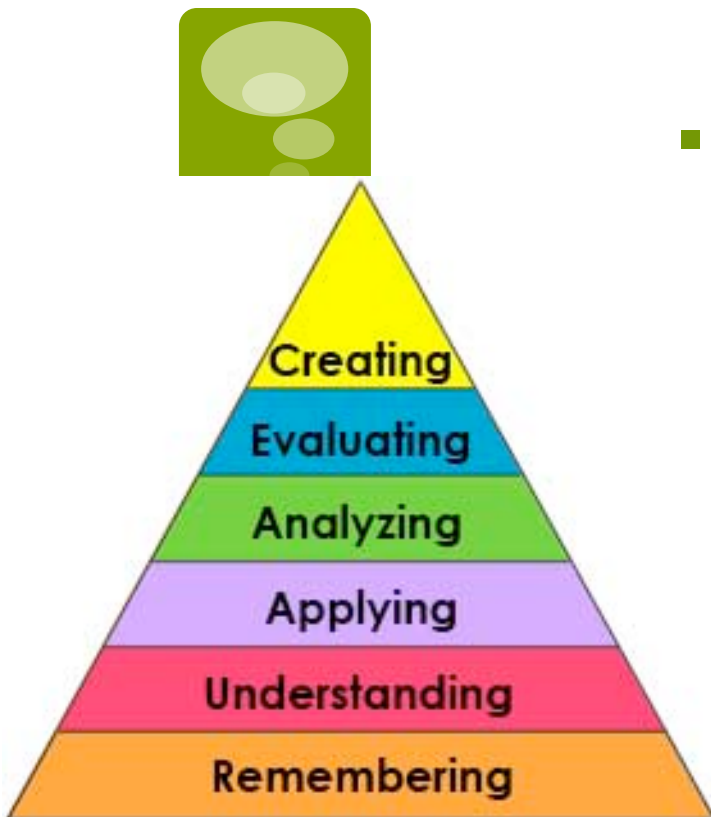
- Three categories of SLOs:
  1. Cognitive: what students know
  2. Affective: what students care about
  3. Behavioral: what students should be able to do

- Consider Bloom's Taxonomy

Highest Order

- **Creating:** Designs, Summarizes, Writes
- **Evaluating:** Compares, Critiques, Explains
- **Analyzing:** Analyzes, Outlines, Identifies
- **Applying:** Applies, Changes, Shows, Solves
- **Understanding:** Converts, Comprehends, Explains
- **Remembering:** Defines, Identifies, Recalls

Lowest Order



## Example SLOs



- Students will describe the major theoretical approaches, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology
- Students will design a research study, collect and analyze data, and interpret empirical findings.
- Students will apply personal, social, and organizational situations to psychology.

# Sample SLOs

## ■ **Biology**

### *Course Goal*

Students will learn and demonstrate use of the scientific method for original scientific research.

### *SLO*

- The student will demonstrate that s/he has formulated an hypothesis, designed a good experiment, controlled variables, operationally defined terms and interpreted data appropriately
- The student will demonstrate understanding of the scope and sequence of the scientific report format by outlining and completing a report based on one of the in-class experiments.

*adapted from California State University Multi-Campus Team Drafts (1998).*



# Sample SLOs



## ■ *Religion*

### **Course Goal**

The student will demonstrate an understanding of the theological foundation of the course.

### **SLO**

When given a definition of the term “religion,” the student will identify which of the following characteristics is emphasized: feeling, ritual activity, belief, monotheism, the solitary individual, social valuation, illusion, ultimate reality, and/or value.

*adapted from California State University Multi-Campus Team Drafts (1998).*

# General Education or Major?

- Gen Ed – See Assessment Website
- Major Field – See Chair of Assessment





Legend: (I) - Introduced, (M) - Mastered, (R) - Reinforced, (X) - Outcome is Assessed

Outcomes	PSY 2023	PSY 3101	PSY 3103	PSY 3113	PSY 3121	PSY 3123	PSY 3303	PSY 3403	PSY 3413	PSY 3453	PSY 3523	PSY 3603	PSY 3613	PSY 3703	PSY 380V	PSY 3823	PSY 4053	PSY 4173	PSY 4323	PSY 4343	PSY 4363	PSY 4533	PSY 4543	PSY 4723	PSY 4853	
Theory and Content of Psychology	I						M	M	I	M	I			R	R	I			R	R	M		I	R		
Research Methods in Psychology	I			M	M	M					I			I	M	I								I		
Applying Psychology	I			M			I	I	I	M	I			M		I	I		I	I			I	M		



## Determine Assessment Tools

A. Method of gathering data

B. Use multiple methods

I. Direct

a) Rubrics, Major Field Tests,  
Written Papers

II. Indirect

a) Surveys, Grades

Why can't I just use grades?

## Example Artifact Map

Outcome	PYS 2023	PSY 310	PSY 3103	PSY3113	PSY 3123	PSY 3703	PSY 4363
Theory and Content of Psychology	Give a Presentation						Multiple Choice Exam
Research Methods in Psychology	Write an APA style Literature Review				Propose and complete simple research projects involving human or non-human subjects and submit a formal APA style empirical research report describing that study.		
Applying Psychology	Write a Personal Statement					Assessment is done by using multiple-choice questions at the knowledge, comprehension, and application levels. Exam questions vary from term to term.	

## Example Assessment Cycle



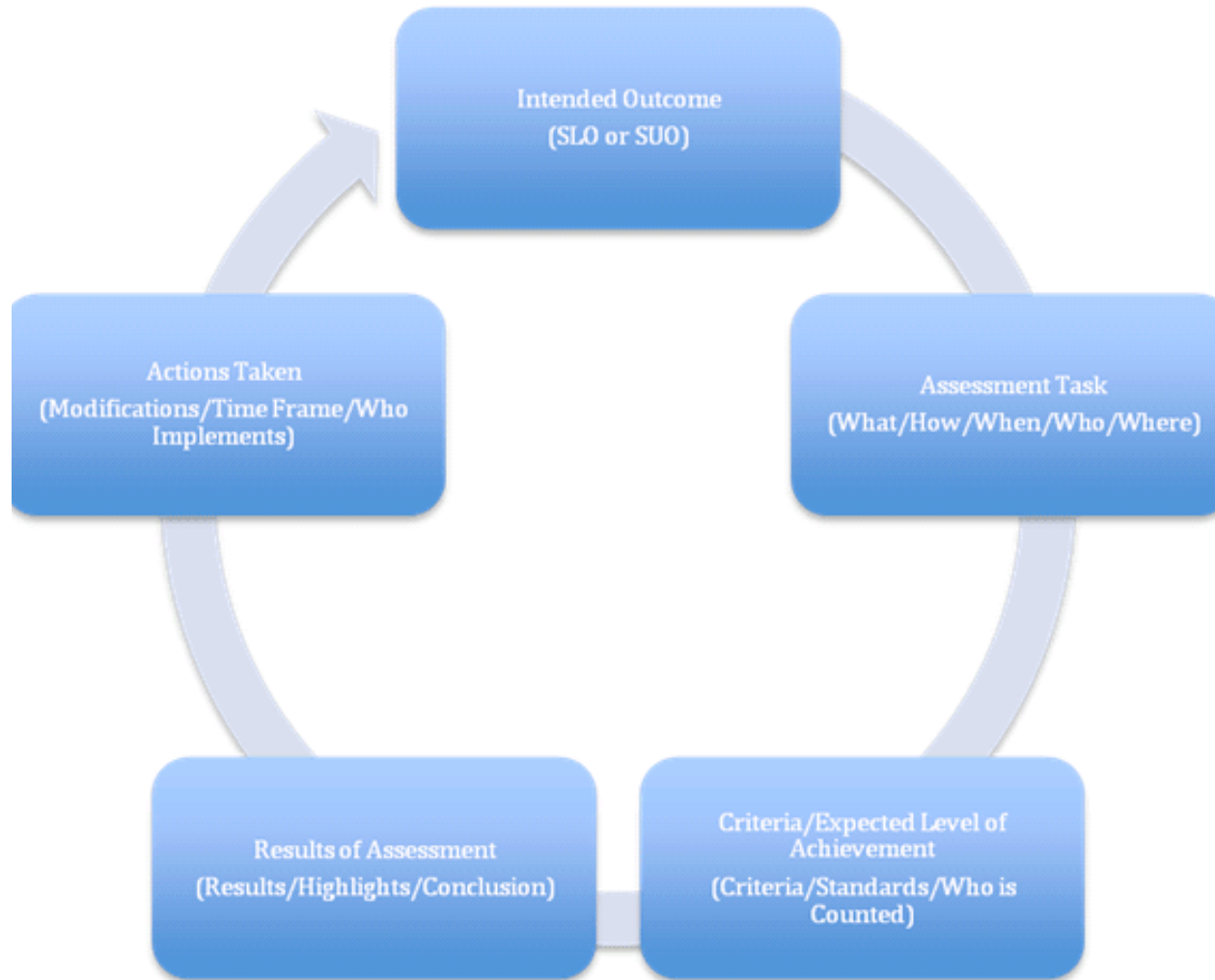
	Assessed	Data 1	Data 2
Year 1	Theory and Content of Psychology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PSY 2023 Presentation</li> <li>• Gathered Yearly</li> <li>• Evaluated by course faculty</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PSY 4363 Multiple choice Test</li> <li>• Gathered Yearly</li> <li>• Evaluated by course Faculty</li> </ul>
	Applying Psychology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PSY 2023 Written Personal Statement</li> <li>• Gathered Yearly</li> <li>• Evaluated by Program Rubric</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PSY 3123 Multiple Choice Test</li> <li>• Gathered Yearly</li> <li>• Evaluated by course Faculty</li> </ul>
Year 2	Research Methods in Psychology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PSY 2023 Written Paper</li> <li>• Gathered Yearly</li> <li>• Evaluated by Program Rubric</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PSY 3123 Written Paper</li> <li>• Gathered Yearly</li> <li>• Evaluated by Program Rubric</li> </ul>



Decide what you should do with based on the data.

- A. What needs changing?
- B. Who needs to be informed about the data?
- C. Do more data need to be collected?

# CLOSE THE LOOP





# Assessment

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