

**Western Nevada College**  
**2019-20 Professional and Applied Technology and Liberal Arts**  
**Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Report Summary**  
**September 30, 2020**

This report summarizes Professional and Applied Technology (PAT) and Liberal Arts (LA) Course-Level Student Learning Outcome (SLO) Assessment Reports submitted for the 2019-20 academic year. It is divided into the following sections:

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**Introduction: Student Learning Outcomes, Reporting Process Overview, and Pandemic Impacts**

The following WNC institutional SLOs guide all courses, programs, and degrees offered by WNC. SLOs 1-6 provide the structure for general education and alignment for academic program outcomes, while SLO 7 provides a connection for career preparation emphases.

<b>Table 1</b> <b>WNC Institutional Student Learning Outcomes</b>	
<b>Student Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Short Title</b>
1. Identify, describe, and apply information, theories, methodologies and approaches from the sciences, social sciences, and humanities/arts.	Working Knowledge
2. Write effective projects, papers, and reports.	Written Communication
3. Present accurate calculations and symbolic operations, and explain how such calculations and operations are used in either the specific field of study or in interpreting information in other fields.	Quantitative Literacy
4. Locate, evaluate, and appropriately use information from multiple resources to complete projects, activities, and papers.	Information Literacy
5. Describe diverse historical and/or contemporary positions on selected democratic values or practices.	Diversity & Society
6. Integrate knowledge and skills from the study of sciences, mathematics, social sciences, and the humanities/arts to think critically about and develop solutions to contemporary and/or enduring problems.	Critical thinking
7. Identify, describe, and apply information in the discipline or career area of their choice sufficient for further study and/ or demonstrate competencies required to succeed in the workplace.	Career Preparation

For the 2019-20 academic year, the JotForm platform was again used for creating and submitting course-level SLO reports. In these reports, academic faculty identify key assignments, projects, or tasks that serve as indicators to assess an institutional SLO, which is tied to one or more course-specific SLOs identified in the report. Student performance on indicators was measured by evaluating whether students achieved the **Threshold** or **Target** for a given indicator:

- **Threshold:** At least 50% of students achieve 70% on assessment
- **Target:** At least 70% of students achieve 70% on assessment

In addition, academic faculty are asked to identify how they will use these assessment results moving forward, and are asked to provide updates on past assessment project result implementation.

One change on the reporting forms for the 2019-20 year is the inclusion of a field for SLO alignment from the course level to the program level. With the 2020 accreditation standards and reporting updates from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), WNC's regional accrediting body, there has been increased emphasis on assessing and reporting SLO achievement at the program level. WNC is in the process of completing curriculum mapping across programs to clearly identify alignment between course-level SLOs and program-level SLOs. Toward this goal, Planning and Assessment Coordinator Mandy Billings and Liberal Arts Director Scott Morrison developed and began facilitating online course mapping trainings for faculty as part of their NWCCU Mission Fulfillment Fellowship work. Because this mapping project is not yet complete for all programs, this new assessment reporting field for identifying SLO alignment to the program level is currently optional for faculty to complete.

For the 2019-20 academic year, LA and PAT faculty were asked to include SLO assessment projects as part of their annual plans. These annual plans are submitted to academic directors at the start of each academic year, and always require the inclusion of an assessment project. Typically, faculty conduct assessment during the fall semester and report on results in the following spring. Some faculty conduct multiple assessment projects across multiple semesters as well, and some faculty choose to additionally conduct non-SLO assessment projects.

During the spring 2020 semester, the coronavirus pandemic caused significant disruptions to WNC. In mid-March, courses switched from in-person to online classrooms, and nearly all faculty and staff roles shifted from on-campus to remote work. As institutional focus changed to maintaining high-quality education and support for our students despite the challenging circumstances, many assessment projects and curriculum mapping initiatives were put on hold. As a result, SLO assessment reporting for both LA and PAT was understandably delayed or not completed. This report summarizes the SLO assessments that were completed and reported to the IRE office by September 2020.

**Section 1: Summary of SLO Course Assessments for 2019-20**

The following tables summarize course-level SLO assessment results from LA and PAT for the 2019-20 academic year. Fifteen courses completed a total of 23 assessment reports in LA, and four courses completed a total of four assessment reports in PAT.

**Table 2**  
**Summary of LA SLO Course Assessment for 2019-20**

<i><b>SLO Assessed</b></i>	<i><b>Reported SLO Achievement Level</b></i>							
	<b>Threshold</b>		<b>Target</b>		<b>Neither</b>		<b>Total LA Courses Assessing SLO</b>	
	<b># Reports</b>	<b>% Reports</b>	<b># Reports</b>	<b>% Reports</b>	<b># Reports</b>	<b>% Reports</b>	<b># Reports</b>	<b>% Reports</b>
SLO 1: Working Knowledge	2	9%	5	22%			7	30%
SLO 2: Written Communication	1	4%	3	13%			4	17%
SLO 3: Quantitative Literacy			2	9%			2	9%
SLO 4: Information Literacy			1	4%	1	4%	2	9%
SLO 5: Diversity and Society	1	4%	1	4%			2	9%
SLO 6: Critical Thinking	3	13%	3	13%			6	26%
<b>Total LA Reports Assessing at Each Achievement Level</b>	7	30%	15	65%	1	4%	23	100%

**NOTE:** Liberal Arts does not typically assess Institutional SLO 7: Career Preparation, so it has been omitted from this table.

**Table 3**  
**Summary of PAT SLO Course Assessment for 2019-20**

<i><b>SLO Assessed</b></i>	<i><b>Reported SLO Achievement Level</b></i>						<b>Total PAT Courses Assessing SLO</b>	
	<b>Threshold</b>		<b>Target</b>		<b>Neither</b>		<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
	<b># Reports</b>	<b>% Reports</b>	<b># Reports</b>	<b>% Reports</b>	<b># Reports</b>	<b>% Reports</b>	<b>Reports</b>	<b>Reports</b>
SLO 1: Working Knowledge	1	25%	1	25%			2	50%
SLO 2: Written Communication							0	0%
SLO 3: Quantitative Literacy							0	0%
SLO 4: Information Literacy							0	0%
SLO 5: Diversity and Society							0	0%
SLO 6: Critical Thinking	1	25%					1	25%
SLO 7: Career Preparation			1	25%			1	25%
<b>Total PAT Reports Assessing at Each Achievement Level</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Notes on Sec. 1: Summary of SLO Course Assessments for 2019-20**

In both LA and PAT, fewer courses completed course-level SLO assessment reports for 2019-20 than in 2018-19. As noted in the introduction, this is likely due to disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic. In LA, that number fell from 27 courses completing 37 reports in 2018-19 to 15 courses completing 23 reports in 2019-20. In PAT, that number fell from 17 courses completing 17 reports in 2018-19 to four courses completing four reports in 2019-20.

## Section 2: SLO Achievement Level Comparisons and Application of Assessment Results

Of the 15 LA courses submitting 2019-20 assessment reports, four courses repeated past assessments.

**Table 4**  
**Summary of Repeated LA SLO Course Assessment for 2019-20**

Course	Institutional SLO Assessed	2018-19 Achievement Level	2019-20 Achievement Level	Improvement?
MATH 126	SLO 3: Quantitative Knowledge	Threshold	Target	Yes
NUTR 121	SLO 1: Working Knowledge	Threshold	Target	Yes
NUTR 223	SLO 1: Working Knowledge	Target	Target	Maintained
PHIL 210	SLO 5: Diversity and Society	Target	Target	Maintained

In PAT, one of the four courses submitting 2019-20 assessment reports repeated a past assessment.

**Table 5**  
**Summary of Repeated PAT SLO Course Assessment for 2019-20**

Course	Institutional SLO Assessed	2018-19 Achievement Level	2019-20 Achievement Level	Improvement?
CRJ 102	SLO 1: Working Knowledge	Threshold	Threshold	Maintained

While CRJ 102 reported the same level of SLO achievement across assessment years, the report did note that students did improve on the assessment within the Threshold range based on changes made after the initial assessment.

All of the submitted reports from LA, and two of the four submitted reports from PAT, contained plans for applying assessment results to changes in the upcoming academic year.

## Section 3: Recommendations for Future Course Assessment Reports

### Updates on Previous Recommendations from 2018-19 Report

- **Past Recommendation: Finalize planning and assessment cycles and reporting expectations for academic divisions.** This recommendation has been completed. Current planning and assessment cycle expectations [can be reviewed here](#).
- **Past Recommendation: Complete updated curriculum mapping within LA and PAT.** Progress toward comprehensive and updated curriculum mapping has been made within both LA and PAT, though advancing this project has been delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic. This remains an ongoing project moving forward.
- **Past Recommendation: Continue to support assessment culture development at WNC.** Even though assessment reporting numbers declined during 2019-20, this is likely primarily due to pandemic-related disruptions. Overall, a culture of meaningful faculty-driven assessment has continued to grow and develop at WNC, led by Assessment Lead Faculty, course and curriculum mapping projects, and supported by clearer planning and assessment expectations, Academic Directors, Planning and Assessment Coordinator, and others. Continuing to develop and support a culture of assessment remains an ongoing priority.

### Recommendations Moving Forward from 2019-20

- **Increase participation in assessment reporting.** Pandemic-related disruptions are likely to continue throughout the 2020-21 academic year, with unknown longer-term effects. Despite these challenges, it will be important to encourage faculty to continue participating in annual SLO assessment as they are able, and to consider ways WNC can better support ongoing assessment given these difficult circumstances.
- **Continue progress toward curriculum mapping that aligns course-level SLOs with program-level SLOs.** While progress has been made in this area, changes to NWCCU accreditation expectations means that SLO assessment moving forward must include assessment of program-level outcomes. Each academic program should be assessing program-level outcomes on a rotating basis that allows for comprehensive assessment of all program-level outcomes during each five-year program review period. NWCCU expects that program reviews to contain clear evidence of program-level SLO achievement, which means academic programs must define meaningful ways of completing and reporting program-level assessment. Comprehensive and updated curriculum mapping, which aligns course-level SLOs with program-level SLOs, will allow for the course-level assessment already being completed to inform assessment of program-level SLO achievement.

**Appendix A: Listing of Reports Received by Course and Semester for 2019-20**

<b>LA Completed Course-Level SLO Assessment Reports Received: 2019-20</b>				
<b>Course Assessed</b>	<b>Institutional SLO Assessed</b>	<b>Semester Assessed</b>	<b>Achievement Level</b>	<b>Plan for Result Application</b>
<b>ANTH 101</b>	SLO 4: Information Literacy	Fall	Target	Yes
<b>ART 100</b>	SLO 6: Critical Thinking	Fall	Threshold	Yes
<b>ART 214</b>	SLO 1: Working Knowledge	Spring	Threshold	Yes
<b>ART 214</b>	SLO 1: Working Knowledge	Fall	Target	Yes
<b>ART 214</b>	SLO 6: Critical Thinking	Spring	Threshold	Yes
<b>ART 214</b>	SLO 6: Critical Thinking	Fall	Target	Yes
<b>ENG 101</b>	SLO 2: Written Communication	Fall	Threshold	Yes
<b>HGPS 201</b>	SLO 2: Written Communication	Fall	Target	Yes
<b>HIST 101</b>	SLO 4: Information Literacy	Fall	Neither	Yes
<b>HIST 285</b>	SLO 5: Diversity and Society	Spring	Threshold	Yes
<b>HIST 285</b>	SLO 1: Working Knowledge	Spring	Threshold	Yes
<b>MATH 126</b>	SLO 3: Quantitative Literacy	Fall	Target	Yes
<b>MATH 127</b>	SLO 6: Critical Thinking	Spring	Target	Yes
<b>MATH 127</b>	SLO 3: Quantitative Literacy	Spring	Target	Yes
<b>NUTR 121</b>	SLO 1: Working Knowledge	Fall	Target	Yes
<b>NUTR 121</b>	SLO 1: Working Knowledge	Spring	Target	Yes
<b>NUTR 223</b>	SLO 1: Working Knowledge	Fall	Target	Yes
<b>NUTR 223</b>	SLO 1: Working Knowledge	Spring	Target	Yes
<b>PHIL 101</b>	SLO 6: Critical Thinking	Fall and Spring	Target	Yes

**LA Completed Course-Level SLO Assessment Reports Received: 2019-20 (Continued)**

<b>Course Assessed</b>	<b>Institutional SLO Assessed</b>	<b>Semester Assessed</b>	<b>Achievement Level</b>	<b>Plan for Result Application</b>
<b>PHIL 135</b>	SLO 2: Written Communication	Fall and Spring	Target	Yes
<b>PHIL 210</b>	SLO 2: Written Communication	Fall and Spring	Target	Yes
<b>PHIL 210</b>	SLO 5: Diversity and Society	Fall and Spring	Target	Yes
<b>SOC 101</b>	SLO 6: Critical Thinking	Spring	Threshold	Yes

**PAT Completed Course-Level SLO Assessment Reports Received: 2019-20**

<b>Course Assessed</b>	<b>SLO Assessed</b>	<b>Semester Assessed</b>	<b>Achievement Level</b>	<b>Plan for Result Application</b>
<b>CRJ 101</b>	SLO 6: Critical Thinking	Spring	Threshold	No
<b>CRJ 102</b>	SLO 1: Working Knowledge	Spring	Threshold	No
<b>GRC 144</b>	SLO 1: Working Knowledge	Spring	Target	Yes
<b>GRC 294</b>	SLO 7: Career Preparation	Spring	Target	Yes