

Western Nevada College
2020-21 Professional and Applied Technology and Liberal Arts
Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Report Summary
August 17, 2021

This report summarizes Professional and Applied Technology (PAT) and Liberal Arts (LA) Course-Level Student Learning Outcome (SLO) Assessment Reports submitted for the 2020-21 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.

Table 1 WNC Institutional Student Learning Outcomes	
Student Learning Outcome	Short Title
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 2020-21 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.

For the 2020-21 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 2020-21 academic year, the coronavirus pandemic continued to cause disruptions to WNC. As a result, some SLO assessment reporting has likely continued to be delayed. This report summarizes the SLO assessments that were completed and reported to the IRE office by August 2021.

Section 1: Summary of SLO Course Assessments for 2020-21

The following tables summarize course-level SLO assessment results from LA and PAT for the 2020-21 academic year. Nine courses completed a total of 16 assessment reports in LA, and 11 courses completed a total of 11 assessment reports in PAT.

Table 2
Summary of LA SLO Course Assessment for 2020-21

<i>SLO Assessed</i>	<i>Reported SLO Achievement Level</i>							
	Threshold		Target		Neither		Total LA Courses Assessing SLO	
	# Reports	% Reports	# Reports	% Reports	# Reports	% Reports	# Reports	% Reports
SLO 1: Working Knowledge	3	19%	3	19%			6	38%
SLO 2: Written Communication	1	6%					1	6%
SLO 3: Quantitative Literacy			4	25%			4	25%
SLO 4: Information Literacy					1	6%	1	6%
SLO 5: Diversity and Society			1	6%			1	6%
SLO 6: Critical Thinking			3	19%			3	19%
Total LA Reports Assessing at Each Achievement Level	4	25%	11	69%	1	6%	16	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 2020-21

<i>SLO Assessed</i>	<i>Reported SLO Achievement Level</i>						Total PAT Courses Assessing SLO	
	Threshold		Target		Neither		#	%
	# Reports	% Reports	# Reports	% Reports	# Reports	% Reports	Reports	Reports
SLO 1: Working Knowledge	3		1		1		5	45%
SLO 2: Written Communication			1				1	9%
SLO 3: Quantitative Literacy							0	0%
SLO 4: Information Literacy			1				1	9%
SLO 5: Diversity and Society							0	0%
SLO 6: Critical Thinking			1				1	9%
SLO 7: Career Preparation	2		1				3	27%
Total PAT Reports Assessing at Each Achievement Level	5	45%	5	45%	1	9%	11	100%

Notes on Sec. 1: Summary of SLO Course Assessments for 2020-21

It is likely that ongoing pandemic-related impacts have slowed or delayed SLO assessment reporting for 2020-21. In LA, the number of reports received fell from 15 courses completing 23 reports in 2019-20 to 9 courses completing 16 reports in 2020-21. In PAT, however, the number of SLO assessment reports completed rose from 4 courses completing 4 assessment reports in 2019-20 to 11 courses completing 11 assessment reports in 2020-21.

Section 2: Recommendations for Future Course Assessment Reports

Updates on Previous Recommendations from 2019-20 Report

- **Past Recommendation: Increase participation in assessment reporting.** While PAT did have an increase in submitted SLO assessment reports during 2020-21, overall report numbers in both PAT and LA remain low. Some of this is likely due to ongoing, unprecedented disruptions to the academic year caused by the pandemic.
- **Past Recommendation: Continue progress toward curriculum mapping that aligns course-level SLOs with program-level SLOs.** The ongoing pandemic brought many immediate challenges to the WNC community and the students we serve. While some faculty were able to continue advancing curriculum mapping work, many were not.

Recommendations Moving Forward from 2020-21

- **Increase participation in assessment reporting.** As WNC moves into the 2021-22 academic year, we anticipate ongoing pandemic-related disruptions. As a result, returning to regular assessment reporting expectations may continue to be a lower priority. Work should be done to evaluate manageable assessment project completion and reporting expectations with consideration given to the dynamic and unpredictable situation presented by the pandemic.
- **Continue progress toward curriculum mapping that aligns course-level SLOs with program-level SLOs.** While much remains unpredictable, there is hope that as we approach a new normal at WNC, that we may return to more organized and systematic work on the project of curriculum mapping from the course to the program level across degree programs. This work could be advanced by faculty participation in curriculum mapping training and by collaborating with colleagues within their discipline, degree program, and division.
- **Review application of assessment findings and plans moving forward from assessment projects.** Academic faculty, Assessment and Planning Leads, and Academic Directors should consider how the assessment projects they complete will inform both future assessment projects and how the results may be applied to future semesters. Currently, the JotForm reporting form has a field for faculty to share their plans related to the application of assessment results. While most faculty do report on plans to repeat assessments following specific changes, or on other planned applications of assessment results, this is an area that could be better reported and documented.

Appendix A: Listing of Reports Received by Course and Semester for 2020-21

LA Completed Course-Level SLO Assessment Reports Received: 2020-21				
Course Assessed	Institutional SLO Assessed	Semester Assessed	Achievement Level	Plan for Result Application
BIOL 190	ISLO 1: Working Knowledge	Fall	Threshold	Yes
CHEM 121	ISLO 1: Working Knowledge	Fall	Threshold	Yes
CHEM 121	ISLO 1: Working Knowledge	Fall	Threshold	Yes
ENV 101	ISLO 4: Information Literacy	Fall	Neither	Yes
MATH 124	ISLO 6: Critical Thinking	Fall	Target	Yes
MATH 126	ISLO 3: Quantitative Literacy	Fall	Target	Yes
MATH 181	ISLO 1: Working Knowledge	Fall	Target	Yes
MATH 181	ISLO 3: Quantitative Literacy	Fall	Target	Yes
MATH 181	ISLO 6: Critical Thinking	Fall	Target	Yes
MATH 182	ISLO 1: Working Knowledge	Spring	Target	Yes
MATH 182	ISLO 3: Quantitative Literacy	Spring	Target	Yes
MATH 182	ISLO 6: Critical Thinking	Spring	Target	Yes
PHIL 210	ISLO 1: Working Knowledge	Fall and Spring	Target	Yes
PHIL 210	ISLO 2: Written Communication	Fall and Spring	Threshold	Yes
PHIL 210	ISLO 5: Diversity and Society	Fall and Spring	Target	Yes
PHYS 180	ISLO 3: Quantitative Literacy	Multi-Year	Target	Yes

PAT Completed Course-Level SLO Assessment Reports Received: 2020-21				
Course Assessed	SLO Assessed	Semester Assessed	Achievement Level	Plan for Result Application
AIT 155	ISLO 1: Working Knowledge	Fall	Target	No
AIT 250	ISLO 4: Information Literacy	Fall	Target	Yes
AM 145	ISLO 1: Working Knowledge	Fall	Target	Yes
AUTO 145	ISLO 7: Career Preparation	Fall	Threshold	No
CIT 217	ISLO 1: Working Knowledge	Spring	Target	Yes
CONS 111	ISLO 1: Working Knowledge	Fall	Threshold	Yes
CRJ 103	ISLO 2: Written Communication	Fall	Target	Yes
EDU 203	ISLO 1: Working Knowledge	Fall	Target	No
GRC 220	ISLO 6: Critical Thinking	Fall	Target	No
MKT 210	ISLO 7: Career Preparation	Fall	Threshold	Yes
WELD 250	ISLO 7: Career Preparation	Fall	Target	No