2018–19 SAS Program Assessment Instructions

Learning Goals

Please list your program’s learning goals and provide the url where they are posted on your website.

Are learning goals on syllabi?

How many department/program syllabi include appropriate learning goal statements? (Select one)

Overwhelming majority | More than half | About half | Less than half

Where are program learning goals achieved?

Please indicate where in your program students achieve mastery of your learning goals: for each goal, identify which course, group of courses, or other curricular requirement most directly supports student mastery of that goal.

What question about student learning did your department investigate this year?

Please state the question about student learning that your department investigated this year.

Traditional assessment practice examines the general question:

- Are students demonstrating mastery of our program’s learning goals at the level that we expect?

Your department may find it most useful to continue investigating this question. However, in any given year, a department may choose to examine only a restricted version of this question, for instance:

- Are students in our methods course demonstrating mastery of goal 2?

If your department investigated the traditional assessment question this year, please articulate the specific question investigated, including the specific goal or goals and the point in the curriculum that was examined.

Your department may also investigate other questions about student learning or performance that will help to improve its program. Any question that your department finds useful is acceptable, as long as (1) answering the question involves directly examining student learning or performance, and (2) you can articulate how answering that question helps to inform your department’s decisions about curriculum design, instructional practice, or other factors that impact student learning.

If your department has enacted any curricular changes in the past couple of years, it may want to focus its efforts on determining whether those changes have had the desired effects. For instance:
• Did adding a prerequisite to our honors seminar increase student performance as expected?
• Did students participating in our new internship program demonstrate the ability to integrate and apply what they’ve learned in the program?
• Did students taking the new online version of our survey course demonstrate the same level of mastery of learning goals as students taking the face-to-face version?

SAS Director of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment David Goldman is available to assist your department in articulating questions, identifying and collecting information that will help to address those questions, analyzing the information collected, and using that analysis.

What methods did your department use to answer its question about student learning?

Please provide a brief overview of the way your department gathered information about student learning to answer the question posed above. Be sure to include a description of the student work that was examined.

Findings

Please summarize your department’s findings and your interpretation of those findings. How did you answer the question posed above?

Please briefly explain how your department has used, or plans to use, the information collected.

Please briefly describe how your findings were shared, or will be shared, with the faculty in your department. Then, identify next steps:

• If your department plans curricular, instructional, or other changes, please provide a general description of the planned changes. (This can also help you identify assessment questions in future years: once the changes are implemented, your department may want to assess whether they have had the intended results.)
• If the investigation this year has generated further questions that your department plans to investigate during next year’s assessment cycle, please identify those further questions.
• If your department plans to use your findings in some other way, please provide a general description of your plans.

Whatever your department’s plans, please identify the approximate timeframe during which they will be implemented.