

SLO News

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES NEWSLETTER
WEST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE
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SLO Committee

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SLO News can also be accessed online at www.wlac.edu/committees/slos/index.aspx.

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SLO UPDATES

- We need your help in making progress with assessment submissions. *Participate. Create Change.*
- We will begin training for TracDat, West's SLO Assessment database, in November. Remember that assessments due for Fall 2015 will be submitted in TracDat.
- The October SLO Assessment Summit was vibrant and filled with dialogue. Look out for the next one in November.
- The SLO cycle permits us to do so much with our teaching practices and student learning acquisition, from zooming in to what works and what does not, to recommending proven student success interventions. As you make a push to create change in your classes, consider answering the following questions to make this a meaningful process:
 - a) What evidence has your division discovered through the use of assessments? What does the data say? What is working? What is alarming? What is necessary to improve learning?
 - b) What type of assessment strategies do faculty members in your division utilize to ensure that students meet the course SLO?
 - c) What have been some of the highlights of your dialogue (phases 2 and 4)? What specific action plans have been shared within your division, between colleagues, and/or to the campus?
 - d) What creative changes have been made or will be made to improve learning gaps in the classroom? Please provide any specific intervention and/or action plan used.

SLO FACILITATORS

If you have a pending assessment, please connect with your SLO facilitator as soon as possible.

DIVISION	DEPARTMENT CHAIR	SLO FACILITATOR	CONTACT INFO
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SEVEN PRINCIPLES FOR GOOD TEACHING

Walker Center for Teaching & Learning. University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, n.d. Web. 24 Oct. 2015. <http://www.utc.edu/walker-center-teaching-learning/teaching-resources/7-principles.php>

PRINCIPLE 1: ENCOURAGE CONTACT BETWEEN STUDENTS AND FACULTY.

Building rapport with students is very important. The contact between students and teachers are vital to the students' success. One of the main reasons students leave school is the feeling of isolation that they experience. The concern shown will help students get through difficult times and keep working. Faculty have many avenues to follow to open up the lines of communication.

For the regular classroom:

- Invite students to visit outside of class.
- Know your students by name.
- Help students with problems in their extracurricular activities.
- Personalize feedback on student assignments.
- Attend student events.
- Advise students regarding academic courses and career opportunities.
- Seek out students you feel are having a problem with the course or are frequently absent.
- Encourage students to present their views and participate in class discussions.
- Have regular office hours.
- Help students to work with other faculty. Let them know of options, research, etc. of other faculty.
- Share personal experiences and values.
- Use the one-minute paper at the end of class to get feedback on what the student is learning and how well they are learning it.
- Talk to students on a personal level and learn about their educational and career goals.

For distance and online courses:

- Try computer conferencing.
- Use list serves.
- Clearly communicate your email response policy.
- Encourage e-mail correspondence and discussion forum use, especially beneficial for those that are shy or are from different cultures because it allows them a different avenue of communication that might be more comfortable.
- "Chat time" online with faculty (at various times, scheduled weekly).

- Use pictures of faculty/students.
- Visit the distance sites, if possible.
- Have an on-site support person.
- Maintain eye contact with camera and local students.
- Arrange for group work at a distance site.

Principle in action:

- A York College (PA) professor has incorporated an invitation in the syllabus to encourage contact during office hours: "You are encouraged to stop in during office hours to talk about any problems or suggestions you may have concerning the course; about careers (especially graduate school or the benefits of majoring or minoring in (Insert your course here); or just about things in general. If you want to talk to me and find the schedule hours to be inconvenient, feel free to schedule an appointment."
- Faculty at St. Norbert College, Wisconsin, use electronic mail discussion groups. Many instructors find that the students are more willing to participate in a written discussion than to speak up in class. The instructor monitors the discussions and participates along with the students, adding personal perspectives and ideas to those of the students.
- The Residential College of Winona State University has implemented a "living-and-learn" environment to encourage student and faculty interaction. It is located 12 blocks from the main campus and houses 400 students in large, mostly single rooms. Academic activities at the Residential College include freshman seminars, sophomore common reading seminars, and an in-resident program with notable scholars or artists participating with students in a variety of experiences. Residential College faculty are located there and hold office hours. The interaction between students and faculty are enhanced because of the increased interaction.

Technology, like e-mail, computer conferencing, and the World Wide Web/Internet, now gives more opportunities for students and faculty to converse. It is efficient, convenient, and protected. It allows more privacy so that students are able to discuss more openly without fear that other students are going to hear. E-mail also gives student more time to think about what they want to say. With these new alternatives to face-to-face communication, interaction from more students should increase within the classroom. <<http://www.edutopia.org/blog/making-assessments-meaningful-heather-wolpert-gawron>>

SLO Committee | 3:00-4:30 pm | Winlock | fourth Monday of the month | Oct 26 | Nov 23

We invite anyone working on SLOs to join us. We are still seeking well-rounded, campus-wide division representation. If your division doesn't have an SLO committee member, please assist your division with this important cause.

SLO Drop-in Hours | GC280L | Mondays from 1-3pm | Thursdays from 12-2pm | or by appointment
Luis's contact number is 310-287-4207. Please do not hesitate to call or see him for assistance.