



YU Assessment Tip of the Month! December 2016

Please share with your faculty:

Why Continually Documenting Student Learning Assessment is so Important

One of the most frequent questions I receive from faculty is why student learning assessment needs to be documented so often. While most people agree that student learning should be the most important priority of a college or university, some people debate the significance of regularly documenting student learning outcomes and results. As described in the May 2016 issue of the *National Institute of Learning Outcomes Assessment*, documentation of student learning assessment is critical for generating actionable evidence that students are achieving the learning objectives set by programs. By regularly documenting student learning assessment, expectations about what students should be able to know or do, and what they have achieved, as a result of a program experience, becomes transparent. This transparency is key to establishing shared expectations and evidence about student learning among a variety of stakeholders including, students and their families, faculty, administrators, and outside accreditors. Continual documentation of student learning assessment also ensures the important alignment of student learning outcomes, instructional methods, and assessments, which is critical for producing valid and reliable evidence about the extent of student learning, and the effectiveness of instructional approaches and measurement methodologies. Finally, by regularly documenting student learning assessment, sufficient actionable evidence is generated for the purpose of meaningfully informing programs about areas of strength and areas in need of improvement. Assessment after all is the process of evidence gathering. To paint a complete picture of student learning, numerous, varied, and frequent evidence is needed.

Check out! Higher education quality: Why documenting learning matters (May 2016). *National Institute of Learning Outcomes Assessment*. Retrieved November 30, 2016 from http://www.learningoutcomesassessment.org/documents/NILOA_policy_statement.pdf.

Please share examples of how your program has been using documented assessment evidence to make meaningful changes or improvements in student learning and instruction, and I will feature those examples on [YU's Learning Assessment Website](#).

Important reminder: Please remember to submit to me an end-of-semester Assessment Activity Report using either the reformatted report form or the previous assessment activity report form. Both versions of the form are attached in the accompanying email.

Please contact me if you need any assistance with completing your report.