Academic Program Assessment Glossary

Alternate geographic location
Degree program or certificate which can be completed away from the “home” site of the program at an approved off-site teaching location

Assessment Liaison
Texas A&M University and AEFIS terminology for college, school, or campus liaisons who provide internal feedback on program learning outcome assessment and work with the Office of Institutional Effectiveness & Evaluation on behalf of their respective college, school, or campus

Asynchronous delivery
Instruction that does not occur in real time; content is made available to students and accessed at their convenience

Closing the loop
Analyzing results from outcome assessment, using the results to make changes to improve student learning, and re-assessing outcomes in order to determine the effect those changes had on student learning; as of the AY2020-21 assessment cycle this reporting requirement is called Status Update on a Previously Identified Action

Continuous improvement
An ongoing, coordinated, faculty-driven effort to ensure delivery of quality education to all students; includes establishing intentionally designed program learning outcomes, assessing the extent to which students achieve those learning outcomes, and informed reflection to reinforce and enhance current success and redirect efforts as needed to ensure future success

Data-informed action
Typically, a curricular change based on outcome assessment results, designed to improve student learning; can also explain “next steps” to be taken in light of assessment data; as of the AY2021-22 assessment cycle this section of the Assessment Report is called Use of Results

Final Approver
Texas A&M University and AEFIS terminology for Department Heads and/or Associate Department Heads who provide the final review of the Assessment Report before submitting to Office of Institutional Effectiveness & Evaluation

Distance education program
Degree programs or certificates which allows a student to complete more than one-half of the required semester credit hours required for the program through a combination of distance education courses (distance.tamu.edu)

Findings
Results from the analysis of assessment data
**Format of delivery**
The method by which program faculty deliver instruction to students in a traditional face-to-face or distance education program, categorized as synchronous delivery, asynchronous delivery, or both.

**Measure**
A term describing the process by which assessment data is collected and evaluated, including what the data is, who it is collected by and from, and the methodology used to analyze it.

**Mode of delivery**
The method by which most of the program's curriculum is offered to students, categorized as face-to-face or via technology.

**Program Coordinator**
Texas A&M University and AEFIS terminology for individuals who are responsible for documenting assessment information and submitting assigned program assessment forms.

**Program learning outcome (PLO)**
A skill or competency students are expected articulate or demonstrate by the time they graduate from the academic program and/or complete the requirements for a certificate.

**Student learning outcome (SLO)**
A skill or competency students are expected articulate or demonstrate; SLOs are defined at multiple levels (e.g., course, program, institution, and system levels).

**Synchronous delivery**
Instruction is available to and accessed by students in real time with the instructor.

**Target**
The clearly stated level at which a program considers their program learning outcome (PLO) to be “met” or achieved on a given measure.