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 HelioCampus (formerly 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 to determine the effect those changes had on student learning. In HelioCampus, this section of the Assessment Report 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 which is designed to improve student learning; describes next steps to be taken in response to the assessment results. In HelioCampus, this section of the Assessment Report is called *Use of Results.*

Final Approver
>Texas A&M University and HelioCampus 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 (https://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 HelioCampus 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