

Student Learning Outcome Assessment Policy at ESF
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Assessment of student learning outcomes at the course, program, and institutional level benefits ESF and its patrons by encouraging thoughtful identification of educational objectives concordant with our mission -- to advance knowledge and skills to promote the leadership necessary for stewardship of both the natural and designed environments – and by ensuring that our graduating students have mastered the educational material embodied in those objectives.

Effective student learning outcomes assessment requires regular collection and examination of data that directly measure student proficiency in all learning outcomes. Moreover, effective assessment plans are efficient, achieving reliable results without unnecessary effort.

Assessment is part of a cycle that fosters continuous improvement in educational outcomes. In this cycle assessment results reveal opportunities for improvement in student performance; curricular and/or pedagogical changes are instituted to enhance performance; efficacy of the changes is evaluated by subsequent assessment. Through the assessment-improvement cycle we demonstrate ESF's institutional ethos expressed in our motto – Improve Your World.

At ESF the following policies guide student learning outcomes assessment practice.

- ❖ *The Faculty creates, manages, and assesses all curricular efforts at ESF.*
- ❖ *All academic programs shall have explicit learning outcomes and a plan to assess them.*
- ❖ *All assessment plans shall conform to Middle States Higher Education Commission standards.*
- ❖ *All course syllabi shall include student learning outcomes.*
- ❖ *Learning outcomes in required courses shall link with learning outcomes of the program(s) for which the course is required.*
- ❖ *All departments shall document assessment efforts in their annual reports of activity including data collected, assessments conducted, response to assessments, and adjustments to assessment plans.*
- ❖ *All assessment plans and results shall be made publicly available on the ESF assessment web page.*