

PSLO Assessment Methods

Method	Pros	Cons	College That Uses It
Imbedded questions on final exams.	No extra work for students and faculty; high stakes for students so they perform well.	Faculty must agree on key questions included in the finals.	Bakersfield
Major Assignments: papers, performances, portfolio graded by individual instructors.	No extra work for students and faculty; high stakes for students so they perform well.	Must be meaningful assessment of major skills synthesized over a series of courses.	Cabrillo
Major Assignments gathered from courses across the college and graded by a common rubric.	No extra work for students and, because they are high stakes assignments, students perform well.	Extra work for faculty to create the rubric, then norm and grade the assignments.	Los Medanos and numerous others
Capstone course.	Sometimes highest level course in degree or certificate is used as capstone; high stakes for students so they try to perform well.	Can be extra units for college or additional requirements for students if it's a new course.	Mira Costa Dance Department
Pre and Post testing.	Can be easy to create and evaluate.	How do you get beginning students to take the pretest? How do you ensure that students are taking the test seriously and try to perform well?	Chaffey College
Capstone project	Can be extra work for students and faculty if not embedded in a course.	If not embedded in a course, it requires additional work to score it beyond classroom; what if a student passes classes but not portfolio or vice versa?	
Program Portfolio,	In CTE programs, creates	Additional work to score it beyond	Cabrillo

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often used in CTE programs or in English for basic skills composition.	something that students can use to show potential employers later; in composition programs, it can be used to accelerate excellent students into higher levels	classroom; what if a students passes classes but not portfolio or vice versa?	Culinary Arts program; Numerous English composition programs
Board exams or Industry certifications.	Easy and provides a real world application.	May not provide enough data to see how to improve specific parts of the program.	Cabrillo Nursing Program
Rolling up data from course SLO assessment.	Easy for faculty – less work IF data is meaningful assessment of major skills synthesized over a series of courses and/or measures highest level skills needed to meet SLO.	Data MUST be recorded separately and also discussed separately from course assessment; not sure if ACCJC will continue to allow this. Have to make a good argument for why you are using this method.	Skyline, Grossmont
Focus Groups.	Can get detailed information about student experiences.	Not direct assessment of student work; can't be done alone without another method.	
Exit Survey.	Can get information about student experiences.	Not direct assessment of student work; can't be done alone without another method.	
Successful degree completion.	Easy.	Demonstrates achievement but doesn't actually measure student learning because grades aren't just based on SLO achievement; doesn't give data on how specific parts of the program can be improved.	Chaffey nursing program

Key Questions:

- 1) Which ones will offer authentic and meaningful data about the PSLOs?
- 2) Which assessment method will make it easy to “disaggregate data by subpopulations”?