

Preamble statement: The Outcomes Assessment Committee recommends the following changes to the Iowa State University Faculty Handbook section 10.7.2, in light of the recent approval of the four University-wide student learning outcomes (Communication, Information Literacy, Critical Thinking & Problem Solving, and Global Citizenship). Furthermore, Iowa State University will have its next review by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) in 2025; hence the below updates to the faculty handbook are necessary to ensure that programs are compliant with their assessment of student learning outcomes prior to the HLC visit. Therefore, the Outcomes Assessment Committee recommends the following changes, as they align with the proposed practices regarding the assessment process of student learning outcomes.

Track Changes is not being provided for this proposal, given the extensive changes involved. The original policy may be referenced in the current Faculty Handbook here.

**Proposed revision to Faculty Handbook Section 10.7.2
Faculty Senate Outcomes Assessment Committee
Iowa State University
February 15, 2021**

10.7.2 Student Outcomes Assessment

Introduction: Iowa State University is committed to using assessment processes as an essential component of the continuous improvement of our institution's learning and educational outcomes. An effective outcomes assessment and evaluation process is a critical component of a continuous improvement process. Student learning outcomes for a degree program describe the knowledge, skills, and abilities that program faculty determine, students should accomplish by the time of graduation. The improvement of students' achievement of these outcomes should be the goal of any program improvement effort.

When performed regularly and consistently, outcomes assessment and evaluation are the processes by which student achievement of learning outcomes is determined. Through a combination of direct and indirect measures, assessment collects data on student performance relative to program learning outcomes. The evaluation of these data provides direction for changes that may be needed to address shortcomings and improve student achievement of the outcomes. After changes are made, student achievement of the outcomes is re-assessed and evaluated, with additional changes implemented as needed, in an ongoing cycle.

Collectively and individually (as appropriate), assessments of general education and program-level outcomes will:

- involve faculty at all points of the process
- align with Iowa State University's mission and goals
- use multiple methods of assessment
- evaluate results and take steps to improve student learning outcomes
- be linked to institutional program review processes

- include external judgment, advice, or benchmarks
- evaluate barriers to student retention and completion

Program Assessment: Every academic program – undergraduate, graduate, professional, and general education – is required to have an active assessment plan. Program assessment plans should:

- articulate specific program goals and measurable [student learning outcomes](#)
- identify the courses or student experiences where the disciplinary learning takes place
- assess one or more learning outcomes per year on an established periodic basis
- review assessment data to determine the efficacy and impact of its curriculum in achieving the learning objectives on a continual basis.

Program Assessment Reports should:

- identify one or more program learning outcomes that were assessed within the reporting period
- outline the types of assessments that were conducted during the defined assessment period (e.g., one direct assessment is recommended every three years)
- document and analyze the results
- summarize recommendations, identify opportunities for improvements (if needed), and outline recommendations and strategies for implementation.

General Education Assessment:

The university-wide general education core requirements are designed to ensure that all Iowa State University undergraduate students acquire the key skills and perspectives needed to succeed in a global society.

Students graduating from Iowa State University with a bachelor’s degree will have acquired knowledge and skills:

- to demonstrate proficiency in critical thinking and problem solving as appropriate to their field of study (critical thinking and problem solving);
- to communicate effectively in their field of study (communication);
- to be effective citizens and thrive in a culturally diverse global community (global citizenship);
- to be proficient in the acquisition and use of information (information literacy).

Approved by the Academic Affairs Council, March 10, 2021 – Vote: 11-0-0

Modified by FS Executive Board, April 13, 2021