

Oakland Community College Criteria for Program Assessment Plans

The OCC Student Outcomes Assessment Committee (SOAC) has outlined a set of criteria to assist faculty and academic administration in determining which credit and non-credit programs are required to have program assessment plans.

Credit Programs

A. Credit Programs: Requiring Assessment Plans

All credit programs which lead to a degree or certificate are required to have a fully developed plan¹ for the assessment of student learning in place before the program begins accepting students. The scope of the plan is based on the type of program e.g. Associate Degree, Certificate or Certificate of Achievement. Specifically,

- a. Plans for Associate Degree programs must have at least three learning outcomes. Plans for Program Options /Concentrations must have at least two learning outcomes which address the distinctiveness of the option/concentration.
- b. Plans for Certificate programs (without a directly related Associate's Program) must have at least two learning outcomes.
- c. Plans for Certificate of Achievement programs must have at least one learning outcome.

B. Credit Programs: Not Requiring Assessment Plans

There are several credit programs which are not required to have program assessment plans. The following guidelines have been established to determine which programs do not require plans.

- a. Program options, which are dependent upon another discipline, do not require an assessment plan.
- b. Certificate programs, which duplicate major requirements² of the Associate's degree, do not require an assessment plan.
- c. Applicant programs, which track students prior to formal entry into the program, do not require an assessment plan.
- d. Restricted programs do not require an assessment plan.
- e. Reciprocal programs do not require an assessment plan.

Non-Credit Programs

OCC offers a wide variety of non-traditional programs. Assessing these programs can be more challenging, since the length, content, and availability of these programs are often limited. The following guidelines have been established for determining which non-traditional programs are required to have assessment plans.

- a. Duration of the program must be at least 90 clock hours, which is equivalent to 6 credit hours.
- b. The program is expected to be offered for at least 24 months or longer.
- c. OCC maintains at least 66% control over the content and delivery of the program.
- d. Completion of the program leads to the awarding of a "credential".
- e. The program must be available for open enrollment.

Individuals with questions pertaining to these criteria should contact the Office of Assessment & Effectiveness or one of the faculty Program Assessment Facilitators.

¹ A fully developed assessment plan contains learning outcomes, benchmarks, assessment methods and an implementation timeline.

² Major requirements are used here to refer only to those courses within the discipline which are part of the core/major requirements.