EL CAMINO COLLEGE

Student Learning Outcomes & Assessment Handbook

Creating and Sharing Evidence of Effective Teaching Practices

This handbook is regularly updated.

Updated: 10/20/13

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The El Camino College Mission is to offer quality, comprehensive educational programs and services to ensure the educational success of students from our diverse community. Central to this mission is student learning, which is not

restricted to interactions between students and instructors in a classroom. Instead, the entire campus works together to support student learning in all of our courses, programs and services.

El Camino College Assessment of Learning Committee Mission Statement:

The Assessment of Learning Committee strives to improve student success by coordinating assessment planning, developing sustainable methodologies and procedures, providing ongoing training, and promoting authentic communication on campus and with the community.

Assessments of student learning offer the institution a vital measure of how effectively El Camino College is fulfilling its mission. Assessment results provide evidence upon which to base curricular, planning and budget decisions, which lead to greater student success. Administrators, faculty, and staff work together to support on-going authentic assessment of student learning outcomes in all of its courses, programs and services.

El Camino College's Guiding Principles for Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Cycles

- 1. For any course, program or service, the personnel directly involved in its delivery are finally responsible for all aspects of its assessment cycles: While expected to consult with all stakeholders on campus, the responsible personnel are the best qualified to determine appropriate student learning outcomes, implement effective assessments, report results, and make recommendations for improvements. For each outcome, they are also best equipped to decide when each stage of the cycle is complete.
- 2. **Broad participation in assessment cycles by administrators, faculty and staff is a shared responsibility:** The more personnel that participate in the production and analysis of assessment results, the greater the likelihood that proposed changes will be implemented and sustained.
- 3. **Student learning outcomes are defined in various ways.** Student learning outcomes vary tremendously among courses, programs and services; they may be cognitive, affective, or psychomotor. They change over time and are informed by a multitude of factors, including community needs, discipline standards, and previous assessment cycles.
- 4. Assessments use various methods and may build upon existing assessments:

 Assessment techniques range widely in style and rigor. Whenever feasible, existing assessment instruments are modified based on results from previous assessments. If possible, new assessment processes replace old ones. Direct measures of student learning are preferred, although indirect measures are used, particularly in areas that indirectly support student learning.
- 5. Curricular, planning and budget decisions are informed by assessment results:
 Assessment results provide evidence that allow administrators, faculty and staff to make wise planning and budget decisions. All curricular and program reviews are stronger when they incorporate assessment results in their reports. Faculty who are responsible for curriculum are required to reflect on assessments and their results as part of periodic

- self-evaluation. Similarly, Program Review reports focus on SLO and PLO assessments so that changes can be integrated into planning procedure.
- 6. **Assessments are used to evaluate and improve student learning:** Information gleaned from assessment cycles is used primarily to understand the factors affecting student learning and to improve instruction and services. Assessments of student learning outcomes are not used to undermine academic freedom.
- 7. **Resources are provided for assessment cycles:** For some assessment cycles, existing resources suffice; for others, additional resources are needed. Administrators, working together with faculty and staff, find the means of conducting meaningful assessment cycles without compromising the quality of instruction, delivery of services or overburdening specific personnel.

El Camino College Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs):

Students completing a course of study at El Camino College will achieve the following institutional learning outcomes:

- **I. Content Knowledge:** Students possess and use the knowledge, skills and abilities specific to a chosen discipline, vocation or career.
- II. Critical, Creative and Analytical Thinking: Students solve problem, make judgments and reach decisions using critical, creative and analytical skills.
- **III.** Communication and Comprehension: Students effectively communicate in written, verbal and artistic forms to diverse audiences. Students comprehend and respectfully respond to the ideas of others.
- IV. **Professional and Personal Growth:** Students exhibit self-esteem, responsible behavior and personal integrity. Students are reflective and intellectually curious; they continue to improve themselves throughout life.
 - V. Community and Collaboration: Students appreciate local and global diversity and are respectful and empathetic during personal interactions and competitions. Students effectively collaborate and resolve conflicts. They are responsible, engaged members of society, who are willing and able to assume leadership roles.

El Camino College General Education Outcomes (GEOs):

General Education Outcomes (GEOs)

General Education Outcomes (GEOs) are measurable outcomes that directly correspond to each of the General Education areas. A General Education Task Force comprised of faculty from each division, deans, the Academic Senate, the Curriculum Committee, and the Evaluations Unit developed the criteria and selected the courses for each of the six General Education areas. The College has identified the following outcomes for each of the six general education areas.

Area 1: Natural Sciences

Develop an appreciation and understanding of the scientific method and an understanding of the relationships between science and other human activities.

Area 2: Social and Behavioral Sciences

Develop an awareness of methods of inquiry and stimulate critical thinking about the ways in which people act and interact within social cultural contexts.

Area 3: Humanities

Develop an awareness of the ways in which people throughout the ages have artistically and culturally responded to themselves and the world around them and develop aesthetic understanding and ability to make value judgments.

Area 4: Language and Rationality

Develop principles and applications of language toward logical thought and clear, and precise expression, and critical evaluation.

Area 5: Health and Physical Education

A. Develop a knowledge of personal health through the examination of health related social problems, potential preventative strategies, and mediation actions.

B. Develop competencies in activities that promote movement, reduce disease risk, and improve overall quality of life.

Area 6: Mathematics Competency

Apply knowledge of mathematics to solve mathematical problems and to judge the reasonableness of their results in meaningful and authentic applications.

The Assessment Cycle

A student learning outcome assessment cycle is a comprehensive process in which we:

- A. Identify a student learning outcome
- B. Design an assessment instrument
- C. Design and implement an assessment plan
- D. Reflect on the results of the assessment and draw conclusions
- E. Share the results and conclusions with the college community and invite review and comments
- F. Implement action plan in response to data and recommended changes to improve student learning
- G. Follow-up on action plan

The Assessment Cycle Plan / Identify – Do / Assess – Reflect / Review / Revise (Repeat)

Review / Reflect / Revise: 5. Evaluate assessment results 6. Use results to refine instruction (close the feedback loop) and modify course and program goals and outcomes. Do / Assess: 3. Develop means of assessment and criteria

instruction

4. Incorporate SLOs and assessment tasks into

for success for evaluating SLOs (a rubric)

Using SLOs and Assessment cycles is an approach to teaching with three cornerstone beliefs. The first is that "covering" material during a course does not necessarily **guarantee** that students learn it. Simple success and retention rates are no longer acceptable ways of

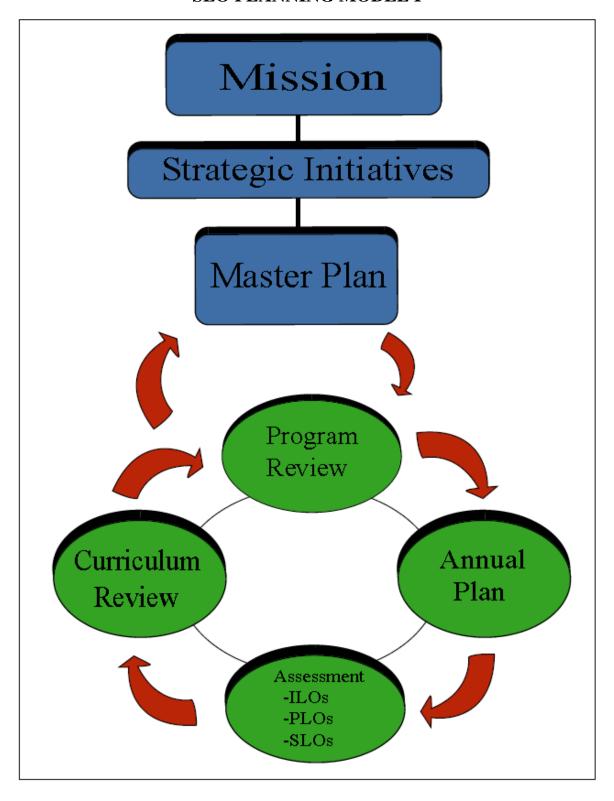
measuring how successful our students are. Success is determined by students emerging from our courses and programs with integrated, higher learning skills that they can **demonstrate** to others. These demonstrations constitute evidence that they have truly learned. Another keystone of the theory is the belief that students perform better when they know exactly what is expected of them, including what they will be required to do and how it will be evaluated. What defines an A, B or C paper or project should be public knowledge. **Transparency** is the key to using SLOs successfully in the classroom. The final concept is **practice.** Before being evaluated on an SLO, students should have the opportunity to practice the skill or tasks that compose it.

How do SLOs, PLOs, and ILOs fit into the Institution's focus?

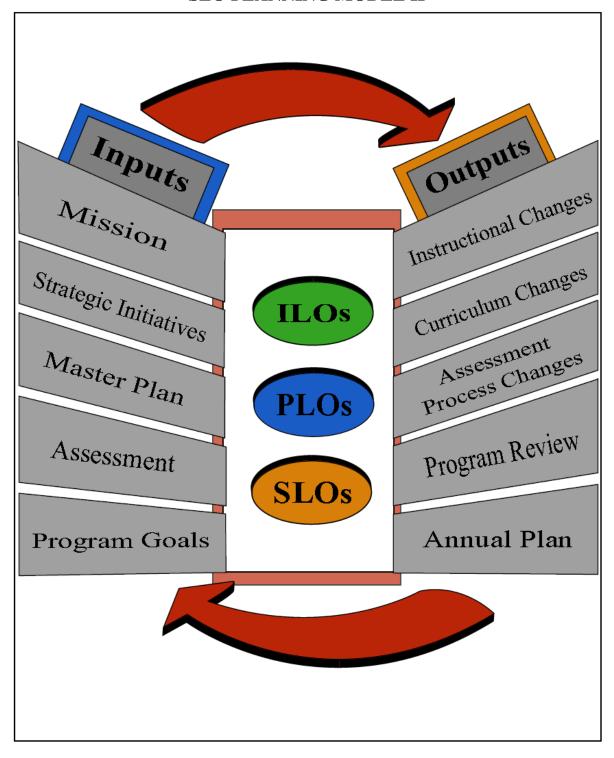
In the classroom, the new Accreditation Standards require that SLOs become an integral part of every syllabus. SLOs should also act as a guide for classroom activities and direct classroom assessments or evaluations. Additional SLO prompts and guidelines have been added in the Program Review template to better integrate SLO and PLO assessments into college planning, program review, and budget processes. The addition of SLO prompts and guidelines in program review provides excellent opportunities to document evidence of program outcomes and an occasion to review the totality of the curriculum and resources that create a program.

The revised College's planning model and language demonstrates the essential connection between outcomes assessment and the mission of the College and how assessment integrates with program review, curriculum, planning, and resource allocation. As of publication of this handbook, the revised planning model is in the final stages of collegial consultation. Once the model receives final approval, a link will be provided. Refer to the below diagrams to see, in general, how assessment integrates with other college processes.

SLO PLANNING MODEL I



SLO PLANNING MODEL II



What is an SLO?

Outcomes are <u>achieved</u> results or consequences of what was learned; i.e., evidence that learning took place. SLOs are statements that describe significant and essential learning that learners have achieved, and can reliably demonstrate at the end of a course or program. SLOs identify what the learner will know and be able to do by the end of a course or program – the essential and enduring knowledge, abilities (skills) and attitudes (values, dispositions) that constitute the integrated learning needed by a student completing a course or program.

The Difference between SLOs and Objectives

with what they've learned by the and of the semester

Student Learning Outcomes do not represent a completely new direction in teaching and learning but rather a continuation of a trend that began with "learning objectives." Student learning outcomes are like learning objectives in their focus on the measurable results of student learning. They differ in scope, however. The main difference between student learning outcomes and learning objectives is that learning objectives are discrete, individual tasks or skills that must be accomplished before the larger, broader goals of the course can be achieved. The overarching goals of the course, however, are the student learning outcomes.

Objectives are <u>intended</u> results or consequences of instruction, curricula, programs, or activities. Objectives are often written more in terms of teaching intentions and typically indicate the subject content that the teacher(s) intends to cover.

Outcomes are <u>achieved</u> results or consequences of what was learned; i.e., evidence that learning took place. SLOs are statements that describe significant and essential learning that learners have achieved, and can reliably demonstrate at the end of a course or program. SLOs identify what the learner will know and be able to do by the end of a course or program – the essential and enduring knowledge, abilities (skills) and attitudes (values, dispositions) that constitute the integrated learning needed by a student completing a course or program.

□ Don't think about content or coverage - consider what students should be able to DO

with what they we learned by the end of the semester.
■ How will students demonstrate this?
■ What can they produce to show faculty that they have learned to apply their new
knowledge?
When trying to define Student Learning Outcomes for a course, think of the big picture.
SLOs:
□ Concretely describe the broadest goals for the class, ones that require higher-level
thinking abilities.
☐ Require students to synthesize many discrete skills or areas of content.
☐ Ask them to then produce something - papers, projects, portfolios, demonstrations,
performances, art works, exams etc. – that applies what they have learned.
Require faculty to evaluate or assess the product to measure a student's achievement
or mastery of the outcomes.
of master, or the outcomes.

	Objectives	Outcomes
Scope	Skills, tools, or content to engage and explain a particular subject	Overarching results - subsequent learning and application of skills learned to other courses and beyond.
Target	Details of content coverage and activities which make up a course curriculum.	Higher level thinking skills that integrate the content and activities.
Major Influence	Input – nuts and bolts	Output - Observable evidence (behavior, skill, or discrete useable knowledge) of learning.
Number	Objectives can be numerous, specific, and detailed to direct the daily activities and material.	SLOs are limited in number (a minimum of 3) to facilitate modification and improvement of teaching and learning.

In contrast, goals express the ideal vision of how students will be transformed by a course or program. Goals are often impossible to assess directly.

Goals	Objectives	Outcomes
A goal is a	Behaviorally measurable	Student learning outcomes state
statement of	objectives are small steps	the characteristics a student-
intent or vision	(content knowledge, skills or	created product should possess in
that is not	attitudes) that lead toward a	order to demonstrate that learning
necessarily	goal. Taken alone,	has occurred. Students are asked
measurable. Goals	assessments of each	to utilize the content knowledge,
are usually found	objective do not serve	skills and attitudes listed in the
in the catalog	evidence that stated goals	course objectives. Assessments of
description of a	have been achieved.	student learning outcomes may be
course or program.	Objectives (or competencies)	used as evidence that the goals of a
	are listed in course outlines	course or program have been met.
	of record.	

Objective	How this objective might be reformulated as	
	a Learning Outcome	
(Geology) To explain the different magma geo-	Students should be able to demonstrate how	
chemistries derived from partial melting of the	magma geochemistry relates to partial melting of	
mantle in different tectonic regimes.	the mantle by contrasting the outcomes of this	
	process in different tectonic regimes through the	
	critical analysis of specific case studies.	
(Biochemistry) To demonstrate the application of	Students should be able to apply the principles	
molecular graphics to drug design.	underpinning the use of molecular graphics in the	
	design of drugs to illustrate general and specific	
	cases through a computer-based presentation.	
(Engineering) To team-design concrete	Functioning as a member of a team, the student	
components of structure and foundation and	will design and present a concrete structure	
integrate them into overall design structures.	which complies with engineering standards.	

SLO STATEMENT CHECKLIST

EL CAMINO COLLEGE COURSE SLO STATEMENT DRAFTING FALL 2013

Reviewed by SLO Facilitator:	Date:
Reviewed by ALC Sub-committee Chair:	Date:
COURSE NAME AND NUMBER:	
SLO STATEMENT Number:	
(Enter Statement Here)	
SLO STATEMENT Number:	
(Enter Statement Here)	
SLO STATEMENT Number: (Enter Statement Here)	
(Enter Statement Fiere)	

Aspects of a Strong SLO Statement:	YES	NO
1. Do all the outcomes address Student Learning?		
2. Are the SLOs written as outcomes rather than an objective (does the language indicate an important overarching concept vs. small lessons)?		
3. Do the SLOs address one specific outcome or is it too broad in scope?		
4. Do the SLOs use active verbs (Bloom's Taxonomy) to describe the outcome?		
5. Are the expected outcomes tangible and measurable?		
6. Do the statements link to a PLO?		
7. Will the students understand the SLO?		
Recommendations:		

Approved by SLO/Faciliator:______Date:_____

1	3

What is a PLO?

PLOs are overarching, specific, and observable behaviors evidenced by students who have achieved your program's educational objectives. Learning outcomes are stated operationally, and describe the observable evidence of a student's knowledge, skill, ability, attitude, or disposition as a result of a specific course of study, activity, or service.

Think about how to state clearly each outcome you are seeking: How would you recognize it? What does it look like? What will the student be able to do?

PLO STATEMENT CHECKLIST

EL CAMINO COLLEGE PLO STATEMENT DRAFTING WORKSHEET

Reviewed by SLO Facilitator:		Date:	
Reviewed by Sub-committee Chai	r:	Date:	
PROGRAM NAME:		DIVISION:	
PROGRAM MISSION:			
	DEVELOP INTO		
PROGRAM GOALS:			
	DEVELOP INTO		
PROGRAM LEVEL OBJECTIVE	<u>ES</u> :		

Aspects of a Strong PLO Statement:	YES	NO
1. Does the outcome address Student Learning?		
2. Is the PLO written as an outcome rather than an objective (does the language indicate an important overarching concept vs. small lessons)?		
3. Does the PLO address one specific outcome or is it too broain scope?	ad	
4. Does the PLO use active verbs (Bloom's Taxonomy) to describe the outcome?		
5. Is the expected outcome tangible and measurable?		
6. Does the statement link to an ILO?		
7. Will the students understand the PLO?		
Recommendations:		

Approved by SLO/ALC Co-	
Chair:	Date:

Bloom's Taxonomy- Objectives and Outcomes

Student learning outcomes should address relevant outcomes for each of these domains but must be appropriate to the course.



Knowledge - Cognitive Domain

Objectives Basic Knowledge

Outcomes More Sophisticated Higher Level Thinking

Knowledge	Comprehension	Application	Analysis	Synthesis	Evaluation
Student remembers or recognizes information or specifics as communicated with little personal assimilation.	Student grasps the meaning behind the information and interprets, translates, or comprehends the information.	Student uses information to relate and apply it to a new situation with minimal instructor input.	Student discriminates, organizes, and scrutinizes assumptions in an attempt to identify evidence for a conclusion.	Student creatively applies knowledge and analysis to integrate concepts or construct an overall theory.	Student judges or evaluates information based upon standards and criteria, values and opinions.
Cite	Convert	Apply	Analyze	Assemble	Access
Label	Define	Chart	Compare	Create	Appraise
List	Describe	Compute	Contrast	Construct	Conclude
Enumerate	Discuss	Demonstrate	Correlate	Design	Critique
Identify	Estimate	Determine	Diagram	Develop	Decide
Imitate	Explain	Dramatize	Dissect	Formulate	Defend
Match	Generalize	Establish	Differentiate	Generate	Diagnose
Name	Identify	Make	Distinguish	Hypothesize	Evaluate
Quote	Illustrate	Manipulate	Infer	Initiate	Judge
Recall	Locate	Prepare	Investigate	Invent	Justify
Reproduce	Paraphrase	Project	Limit	Modify	Rank
	1 6	Solve	Outline	Reframe	Recommend
State	Restate	30146	ourmio .		

Skills and Abilities - Psychomotor Domain

Objectives
Basic Knowledge
Basic Skills
Level



Outcomes More Sophisticated Skills Higher Level Abilities Critical Understanding of Performance

Observe	Model	Recognize Standards	Correct	Apply	Coach
Students translate sensory input into physical tasks or activities.	Students are able to replicate a fundamental skill or task.	Students recognize standards or criteria important to perform a skill or task correctly.	Students use standards to evaluate their own performances and make corrections.	Students apply this skill to real life situations.	Students are able to instruct or train others to perform this skill in other situations.
Hear Identify Observe See Smell Taste Touch Watch *Usually no outcomes or objectives written at this level.	Attempt Copy Follow Imitate Mimic Model Reenact Repeat Reproduce Show Try	Check Detect Discriminate Differentiate Distinguish Notice Perceive Recognize Select	Adapt Adjust Alter Change Correct Customize Develop Improve Manipulate Modify Practice Revise	Build Compose Construct Create Design Originate Produce	Demonstrate Exhibit Illustrate Instruct Teach Train



Attitudes - Affective Domain

Objectives

Elementary Values and Behaviors Inherited Value System Egocentric View

Outcomes

More Highly Developed Attitudes Well Thought-out Value System Higher Level Abilities to Identify and Articulate Others' Values

Receiving	Responding	Valuing	Organizing	Characterizing
Students become aware of an attitude, behavior, or value.	Students exhibit a reaction or change as a result of exposure to an attitude, behavior, or value.	Students recognize value and display this through involvement or commitment.	Students determine a new value or behavior as important or a priority.	Students integrate consistent behavior as a naturalized value in spite of discomfort or cost. The value is recognized as a part of the person's character.
Accept Attend Describe Explain Locate Observe Realize Receive Recognize	Behave Comply Cooperate Discuss Examine Follow Model Present Respond Show Studies	Accept Adapt Balance Choose Differentiate Defend Influence Prefer Recognize Seek Value	Adapt Adjust Alter Change Customize Develop Improve Manipulate Modify Practice Revise	Authenticate Characterize Defend Display Embody Habituate Internalize Produce Represent Validate Verify

A Guide to Reporting Assessments

El Camino College/Compton Center - SLO TracDat Template (8.16.13)

If you wish, you may fill out this template and transfer the information into TracDat. To review your Alignment Grid and past assessment reports, select the "**Documents**" folder. Past reports are saved as WORD documents.

COURSE/PROGRAM LEVEL PLAN

Course Name and Number or Program name:

SLO or PLO Number and Statement:

Faculty Assessment Leader:

Faculty Contributing to Assessment:

Course SLO/PLO Assessment Cycle: Based your timeline, select the corresponding semester(s) this SLO/PLO statement will be assessed.

If the assessment Cycle information has already been input, check it for accuracy and make any necessary changes.

□ 2013-14 (Fall 2013)	□ 2014-2015 (Fall 2014)	□ 2015-2016 (Fall 2015)	□ 2016-2017 (Fall 2016)
□ 2013-14 (Spring 2014)	□ 2014-2015 (Spring 2015)	□ 2015-2016 (Spring 2016)	□ 2016-2017 (Spring 2017)
□ 2013-14 (Summer 2014)	□ 2014-2015 (Summer 2015)	□ 2015-2016 (Summer 2016)	□ 2016-201 (Summer 2017)

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Identify Assessment Method: Choose item(s) that most closely relates to your assessment method(s). You will be able to explain the assessment method in more detail in the following section. You may select more than one method as faculty members may use different assessment methods or different method may be used in subsequent assessments. You can always go back and add an assessment method.

□ Case Study	□ Journal/Log	□ Project
□ Essay/Written Assignment	□ Laboratory Project/Report	□ Standardized/Licensing Exam
□ Exam/Test/ Quiz	□ Performance	□ Survey/Focus Group
□ Fieldwork Internship	□ Portfolio	□ Term/Research Paper
□ Homework Problems	□ Presentation/Skill Demonstration	

Describe Assessment Method: In a sentence or two, describe the planned course SLO/PLO assessment. If you wish, you can attach the actual assessment instrument by first selecting "Save Changes", then selecting "Relate Document." HINT: Be sure to "Save Changes" to activate the "Relate Document" button.

Standard and Target for Success: Describe the standard you will use to determine success in your assessment. If you are using a rubric, attach the rubric. Include your target for student success for this SLO/PLO. This target for student success should be based on a clear standard. For example:

Based on Percentages "It is expected that 85% of students will score 75% or above on

this SLO/PLO.

Based on Rubric "It is expected that X% of students will score 4 or above on this

SLO/PLO."

Semester and Year Assessment was Completed: *Provide the current semester and year of this assessment.*

RESULTS

Date Results and Analysis Entered: Provide the assessment data. What are the results of your assessment? Summarize the patterns observed in the data. What were the most important findings from the data? You may have completed the assessment in the Fall but are entering the results in Spring.

Target Met: Was the target you set in the Standard and Rubric section met? Click yes or no.

Semester of Next Planned Assessment: When will this SLOPLO be assessed again? If the target was not met, consider re-assessing this SLO/PLO sooner than indicated on the timeline. If the target has been met consistently, consider revising your SLO/PLO or developing a new SLO/PLO statement. Revise your timeline as needed by going back to **COURSE LEVEL PLAN/PROGRAM LEVEL PLAN** and clicking the "edit" button next to the SLO/PLO statement.

Related Documents: This tab lets you upload documents. You may wish to upload your actual assessment tool here or any other relevant materials.

Action Plan

Describe Changes Needed to Improve Student Learning: Address as many categories as needed.

Teaching Strategies: Needed changes to teaching strategies to improve student learning. **Curriculum Changes:** Needed curricular changes (pre-requisites, major topics, objectives, etc.).

Program/College: Anything the Program or College should do to support any of these changes.

SLO/PLO Assessment Process: Needed changes to the SLO/PLO statement or assessment process based on results.

Action Plan	Categories	Timeline for
(One action plan per row.) Enter only those actions for which you wish to develop a plan.	Teaching Strategies Curriculum Changes Program/College SLO Assessment Process PLO Assessment Process	Implementing Changes

Follow Up

(This section will appear once an action has been listed. It is to be to be completed after actions have been taken.)

Changes since Previous Assessment: To complete this section, review any previous Assessment Data, Analysis, and Action Plans and compare to current Assessment Data and Analysis. Are there significant changes to the Assessment Data? Was the preceding Action Plan implemented? Describe any changes to student learning and any impact of the previous Action Plan(s). Has the Action Plan been changed based on any new data or analysis?

Dialogue: (Required) Describe the ways in which you have or will discuss these findings with your department, division, or campus. Include formal and informal interactions.

DOCUMENTS

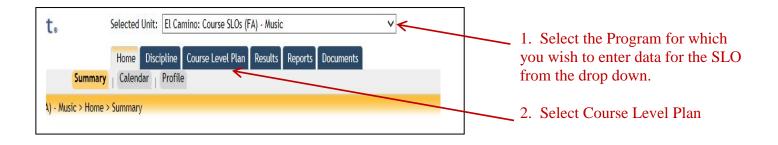
This section allows you to add folders and upload any documents you wish to include. This section houses the Alignment Grids and your previous SLO and PLO assessment reports. This is different from the "Related Items" folder in the Results section.

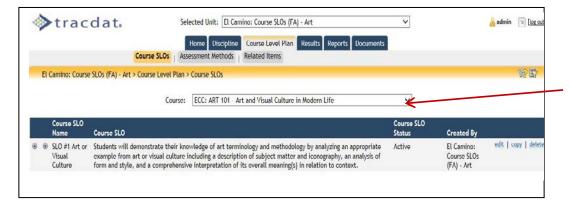
TractDat Quick Start Guide (Updated 9.9.13)

Entering SLO Reports

Logging In

URL: https://elcamino.tracdat.com





3. Select the course from the drop down menu. If there is only one SLO it will appear. If there is more than one, select the SLO statement.





SLO #1 Comparing Career Options in Education

Discard Changes

After reading the textbook and course modules, participating in class discussions,

educational requirements and resources, state standards, qualities of effective educators, and the rewards and challenges of a career in education by preparations.

and visiting selected school sites, students will apply their knowledge of

Intro to Field of Education

Course: Course SLO Name:

Course SLO:

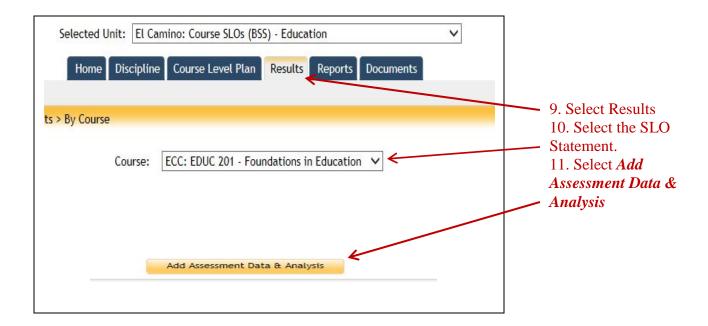
Assessment Method:

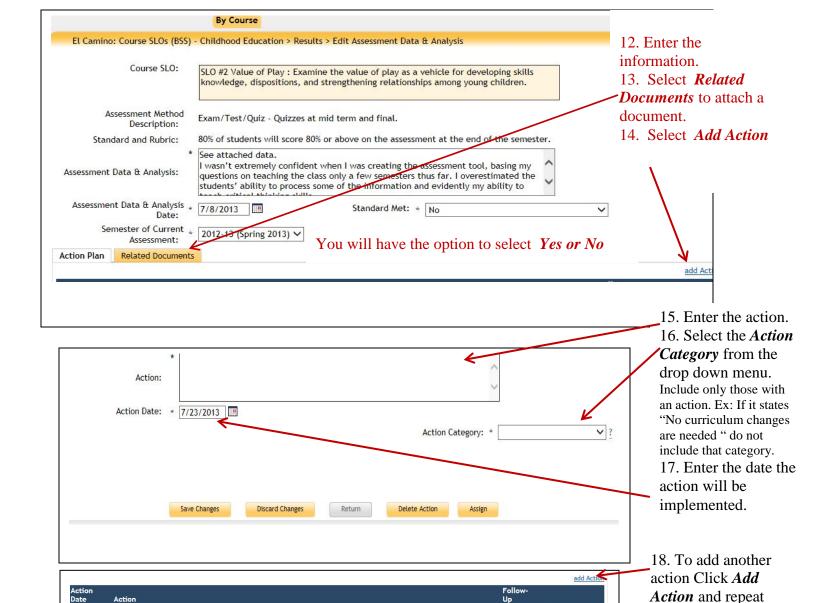
Standard and Rubric:

Assessment Method Description:

5. Choose *Assessment Method* from dropdown menu.

- 6. Enter the data.
- 7. Save Changes.
- 8. Select Return. (Ignore *Assign* for now.)





steps above.

19. Save Changes.

Make sure the questions on the SLO assessment correlate to what is being taught to make it a more authentic