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Frequently Asked Questions: Assessment Matrix

Loma Linda University

1. **Do we have to fill out *all* of the columns in the Program Assessment Matrix?**
   You cannot fill out the final two columns until you have given the assessments, collected and analyzed the data, and made program changes based on the analyzed data. However, if you have already been doing this for some of your outcomes, then you need to complete the final two columns for those outcomes. If not, then leave the last two columns blank for now.

2. **Column 6 has changed! Do we no longer have to include the time cycle for our data collection?**
   WASC has added two new questions for programs that replace the data collection cycle information in column 6:
   a. Who interprets the assessment data?
   b. What is the process?

3. **What are we supposed to do with the LLU Student Learning Outcomes? Isn't the university going to assess those across campus?**
   About two years ago when we were first learning about University Student Learning Outcomes we did believe the university would assess them all. However, as we learned more about learning outcomes and tried to apply them to our unique institution, we realized that the most meaningful assessment of University SLOs is at the program level. The data collected must be meaningful for the programs, or it won't be a sustainable process.

   So here are some tips: Integrate all University Student Learning Outcomes into the program's Curriculum Map. Then attach each SLO's assessment to an existing measurement tool in the appropriate course, and note this connection on the Assessment Matrix. The university will provide rubrics that can be contextualized for each program's discipline and level; more resources will be shared soon about how to do this. Collect and record the data from the assessment; analyze the data; and, then take action if any is indicated to close the loop.

   Two University SLOs will be assessed per year on a four-year cycle with the exception of 2009-2010 when three outcomes will be assessed[1]. Nevertheless, it is advisable that programs assess and track SLO results annually to be able to evaluate students' progress and thus the program's success for that outcome.

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