



2017 LIS Program assessment report summary

Background

The previously separate Office of Graduate Education and Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs program assessment systems have now been merged into single report. It will be titled “Program-level Learning Assessment Reports,” with the first reports due via the new system in November 2018.

In the meantime, we have continued to refine both our program Student Learning Outcomes and our assessment practices. Spring 2017 was the final semester of our previous SLOs, and as in 2016, we continued to focus on summative assessment via the oral comprehensive exam, the culminating experience of the LIS program for approximately 95% of students (the remainder opt for a thesis). In the oral comps, students prepare personalized responses to four scenarios reflecting professional problems and issues, and their responses are assessed by two faculty members in a live setting. Each of the scenarios was linked to one or more program SLOs:

- **SLO1** Understand, apply and articulate the history, philosophy, principles and ethics of library and information science and the related professions
- **SLO2** Develop, administrate, assess, and advocate for information services by exercising principled communication, teamwork and leadership skills
- **SLO3** Organize, create, archive, preserve, retrieve, manage, evaluate, and disseminate information resources in a variety of formats
- **SLO4** Evaluate and use the latest information technologies, research findings and methods
- **SLO5** Engage in projects and assignments dealing with multicultural communities and representing diverse points of view

Effective Fall 2017, we implemented new SLOs—the prior SLOs 1 and 2 were separated into new SLOs 1, 2 and 6, to emphasize management as its own SLO:

- **SLO1 Services:** Design, provide, and assess information services
- **SLO2 Professions:** Apply history and ethics to develop a professional LIS identity
- **SLO3 Resources:** Create, organize, manage and discover information resources
- **SLO4 Technologies:** Evaluate and apply information technologies
- **SLO5 Cultures:** Analyze and apply knowledge about information needs and perspectives of indigenous cultures and/or diverse communities
- **SLO6 Management:** Demonstrate skills necessary to manage and work effectively within information organizations

Each scenario in the oral comprehensive exam is assessed by two faculty members on a 7-point scale. The average of both faculty members' assessments must be at least 5/7 on every scenario for students to pass the exam. Those who do not pass are given one more opportunity to retake any failed scenario, and the second score replaces the first. This report includes both the failed and retaken scenario scores.

- Exceed standards: 6.0-7.0
- Meet standards: 5.0-5.99
- Approach standards: 4.0-4.99
- Do not meet standards: 0-3.99

Spring 2017 summative assessment: Oral comprehensive exam results

N=22 students	SLO1	SLO2	SLO3	SLO4	SLO5
Exceeds standards	13	12	13	14	12
Meets standards	7	8	6	6	8
Approaches standards	1	1	2	1	1
Does not meet standards	1	1	1	1	1

Fall 2017 assessment summary

As the new SLOs are an evolution of the previous version, and we wish to support graduating students who wish to undertake the culminating experience they have prepared for throughout their time in the LIS Program, for Fall 2017 we mapped the new SLOs to the existing oral exam scenarios to continue summative assessment.

We also piloted a course-by-course formative SLO assessment. In prior years, we attempted to assess 19 indicators of our 5 high-level SLOs in every course, but variations in course content and instructor participation yielded incomplete data. This semester, we piloted a much more streamlined reporting template, allowing instructors to identify how many students exceeded, met, approached or did not meet standards in major assignments covering the new primary SLO for the course. Instructors in ten of the eleven courses we offered in Fall 2017 completed the new assessment template.

Fall 2017 summative assessment: Oral comprehensive exam results

N=13 students	SLO1	SLO2	SLO3	SLO4	SLO5	SLO6
Exceeds standards	10	6	7	8	7	7
Meets standards	2	4	3	3	4	3
Approaches standards	1	2	2	1	1	2
Does not meet standards	0	1	1	1	1	1

Fall 2017 formative assessment: Instructor assessments of major assignment(s) addressing the primary SLO associated with the course (10/11 reporting)

	SLO1	SLO2	SLO3	SLO4	SLO5	SLO6
Exceeds standards	5	4	19	13	13	7
Meets standards	7	2	7	1	13	1
Approaches standards	2	0	4	1	3	0
Does not meet standards	3	0	1	1	4	0

Use of results

We used the results of this and previous assessments to monitor program outcomes during the transition to our new curriculum (approved for Fall 2018 implementation). To address the previous year's lower outcomes in management and administration, two new courses have been added to the curriculum in addition to the traditional library management course, to provide students a broader set of core-eligible courses related to management and administration: one focused on archival management, the other focused on entrepreneurship in non-library institutions.

Strong student interest in courses meeting our new SLO5 (Cultures: Analyze and apply knowledge about information needs and perspectives of indigenous cultures and/or diverse communities) informed the hiring of a new faculty member with research and teaching interests in these areas, and the development of a new culture-oriented pathway (a list of relevant recommended courses) within the new curriculum.