

Learning Outcomes--Mathematics and Nursing

This is the second part in a series of short descriptions of learning assessment activities in the California community colleges. This installment features two cases, one from the Math Department at Santiago Canyon, and the other from the Nursing Department at Santa Ana College. You can access all of the Center's case studies at <http://css.rpgroup.org>

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Santiago Canyon: Math Department Learning Outcomes

Santiago Canyon College began developing student learning outcomes in 2002. A task force with college-wide representation developed outcomes in the areas of communication skills, thinking and reasoning, civic responsibility, life skills, and careers. Each department develops outcomes for programs and courses that address the broader college-wide outcome areas. Departments began with an on-line search for similar programs. Department-wide discussions for two semesters yielded a first draft and a revision of program SLOs. Faculty created SLOs for individual courses during flex days.

The math department has completed SLOs for three courses pre-algebra, elementary and intermediate, elementary. Faculty are currently researching and discussing assessment options for these courses. The department plans to complete SLOs and assessment plans for four courses each year. Santiago Canyon College and Santa Ana College collaborate on curriculum, so math department faculty from both colleges work together to develop SLOs.

The Math Department includes nine full-time and three part-time faculty who worked closely to develop these outcomes and assessment tools. Each faculty member attended a training workshop on SLOs. Faculty development paid for six members of the math department to attend the RP Group SLO workshops. Most of the work occurred during regular department meetings and Flex Day.

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Additional information and resources on Santiago Canyon's outcomes for Elementary and Intermediate Algebra, and pre-Algebra go to the Center for Student Success website (<http://css.rpgroup.org>) and choose the Learning Assessment tab. Look for the Santiago Canyon case after hitting the View All button.

Santa Ana College: Nursing Department Learning Outcomes

Santa Ana College began developing SLOs for the college in Fall 2001. A collegewide task force created SLOs in the areas of communication skills, thinking and reasoning, diversity, civic responsibility, life skills, and careers. Each department was asked to develop outcomes for their programs and courses that aligned with the college outcomes.

The Nursing Department developed outcomes for all courses as part of a curriculum revision that began in Fall 2003. The revised curriculum takes effect in Fall 2004. Because nursing has accrediting agencies that specifically evaluate outcomes, the transition to student learning outcomes was not difficult. The department uses a behavioral objective approach in evaluating students in theory and clinical courses, which posed some challenges in moving to an outcome approach for course objectives.

The Nursing Skills Lab Coordinator and Evaluation Committee Chair coordinated the SLO development process, which involved all faculty.

For more information contact, Mary Crook, Director of Nursing, Santa Ana College (crook_mary@rsccd.org)

For additional information and resources on Santa Ana's Nursing Department assessment plan and learning outcomes, go to the Center for Student Success (<http://css.rpgroup.org>) and choose the Learning Assessment tab. Look for the Santa Ana case after hitting the View All button.