

Chemistry Report SLOAC Review Comments

Thanks for filing an assessment plan with the SLOAC. We have the following comments for you to consider:

1. We appreciated the substantive response to previous SLOAC review of their plan. It's obvious that they took SLOAC comments seriously and took the time to discuss and respond to them!
2. Nice combination of both direct and indirect measures (class tests, research reports, alumni surveys, senior surveys)
3. Student scores on assessment instruments on all assessment measures were above the expected results, yet the department still had substantive conversation about how to improve the program (including development of a new degree with new courses, adding writing intensive courses, collaborating with other departments, and identifying equipment to purchase.)
4. Report builds a strong argument about the need more faculty.
5. We are encouraging programs to consider ways of doing more formative assessment instead of relying only on assessment data gained during the senior seminar course. In other words, is there a course that all students take early in their careers where you can gather similar data to compare with students when they are finished with your program. As a related issue, how much do your students know about their scores on assessment? Is there a way for students to "track" their progress through your program on the outcomes. Please consider how you can move your assessment to a deeper level by considering these additions.

We do not need anything more from you for this year. We'll be looking carefully over the next several years at data gathered on outcomes related to your grant.

Your next report will be due on October 31, 2008.

If you wish to apply for an Instructional Improvement Grant, the deadline is January 31, 2008. Complete details are available at www.mnstate.edu/assess, click on Grants.

If you have questions, please contact Dr. Jean Sando at sandoje@mnstate.edu.