

Chemistry SLOAC Review Comments

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

Plan

1. Good use of multiple measures throughout the report. For assessment of student learning, we do not need all of the indirect measures—alumni survey, exit survey, etc. If the information is useful to you, please gather it. We only require data specifically related to student learning. Our observation is that this can be useful data which informs your planning about learning in your department. We encourage you to weigh the advantages of the data against the time it takes to gather it.
2. We had several comments about interrater reliability on your rubrics. The rubric for the senior seminar is used by multiple faculty—that's good—and it clearly states what is necessary for each score on the rubric. (Though we did question that one significant problem with a report could still be acceptable.) Try to make the rubrics for the research project (497) more specific about what is necessary for each score. And it would be great if multiple faculty used the instrument.
3. If students can do multiple research projects (497) and they are assessed each time, does that skew your assessment results? In other words, do we get more scores from better students? More scores from not so good students? How can you control for this?
4. What feedback is provided to student after they complete 497? Do they get a copy of the evaluation sheet so they know what to improve on?

Report

1. You might consider an outcome and measure related to knowledge. Yours seem to lean towards skills. You might apply for a grant to develop some way of teaching knowledge in an assessable manner.
2. You might dig deeper into the data to see how you can improve your teaching.
3. As you assess communication, try to remain focused on discipline-specific communication practices.

At this time, we do not need anything additional from you. If you would like to file a grant application, you have until October 31 to do so. We can look at any changes to your plan at any time.

If you have questions at any time, please contact Tim Borchers at borchers@mnstate.edu.

Thanks!