

Geoscience Report SLOAC Review Comments

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

It appears that you have a new assessment plan from which you have gathered data, so we'll comment both on the plan and the report.

Plan Comments

1. Thanks for using multiple measures to assess student learning.
2. For the lab and field skills outcome, your assessment measure is indirect. As you think more about assessment, consider ways of directly assessing student learning in these venues.
3. Your rubric for the literature/research outcome does not appear to include all of the items listed in the outcome. You might make the rubric more detailed. Additionally, the more raters who use the instrument, the more reliable your results will be.
4. 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.

Report Comments

1. Thank you for addressing past changes and their impact on student learning. As you continue your assessment, you'll be able to note trend lines in your assessment measures and will be able to move from making statements about how faculty "felt" to making data-driven decisions about your program.

We do not need anything more from you for this year.

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. You might consider a grant that would provide training in direct assessment of field work or to buy some faculty time over the summer to continue to fine tune your assessment instruments.

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