

Physics and Astronomy Report SLOAC Review Comments

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

1. With so few students, it may be difficult to draw many valid conclusions about your student performance. Just a caution.
2. Thank you for thinking a bit about what the scores may mean. I think the actions you identify show thought and consideration on your part of how your students are learning (and why they may not be learning).
3. Would it help for the communicating results problem to have at least one writing-intensive course in your department that may be taught towards the middle of the students' careers where they can learn and practice these concepts?
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.

We do not need anything more from you for this year. We'll be looking carefully next year 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. Is there something you could do to help your students communicate their results that would need grant money?

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