



West Texas A&M University (WTAMU) is a proud institution that seeks to produce college graduates that are capable of finding gainful employment and living civic minded lives in the Texas Panhandle and further into a globally connected society. These are the outcomes that institutions of higher learning seek to convey on an annual basis. However, the way that those outcomes are reached is not uniform, but is constantly in flux.

Understanding what learning improvement looks like in higher education is a process in which educators attempt to integrate new components of learning each year in an effort to enhance these student outcomes. A Student Learning Outcome (SLO) is an expectation, as opposed to a goal, which pertains to something hoped for. Such a distinction is important to understand and incorporate into the learning environment of students with future aspirations in a work-minded society.

At the conclusion of the 2023-24 Academic Year, the AVP for Institutional Effectiveness awarded the annual Assessment and Assurance of Learning Award presented at the WTAMU Academic Affairs Faculty and Staff Awards. It is a way to reward top performers for their efforts to improve student learning at the program level. The award for 2022-23 was given to the Department of Sports and Exercise Sciences (SES). The department includes the following programs

- Athletic Training BS
- Sports and Exercise Sciences BA/BS
- Sports and Exercise Sciences MS

Data Bite # 11 – Assurance of Learning Assessment Award Data Bite

While maintaining 4 or more outcomes in each program, the department has designed a three-year schedule for an analysis of outcomes. These are analyzed, maintaining the minimum of two outcomes at a time for that three-year period in the following ways:

- 1) Observe and analyze,
- 2) Build action plans to motivate change,
- 3) Seek measurable improvement based on said changes.

100% of the department's programs achieved the assessment requirements including:

- Completion of ALL assessment reporting and Improvement Narratives. (All Programs)
- Clearly written Student Learning Outcomes that are properly structured to detail what a student WILL be able to do upon graduation. (Minimum two outcomes, see Assessment workbook).
- Multiple measures of learning outcomes that include a description, a stated methodology, an acceptable benchmark (70% or above of student participants at minimum), findings that offer an analysis for understanding, and indicate improvement is taking place and/or being sought in coming cycles. (Minimum two measures per outcome).
- Stated process for the assessment of outcomes during the 2022-23 Cycle.
- Positives and challenges with stated outcomes discussed in the narrative.
- An action plan for the 2023-24 Cycle was written with discussion of specific courses and/or assignments detailed for assessment.

As with all programs and departments on the WT campus, there is and always will be changes that can be made to foster improvement on an annual basis. However, the efforts of this department exceed all others on campus for the 2022-23 assessment cycle.

There will be a new recipient of this award for the 2024-25 academic year. No program can win this award in successive years. Once again, WTAMU improved a little more in the past year and it will be exciting to see that improvement grow in the years ahead