

ASSESSMENT MATTERS

Happy Holidays!

INSTITUTIONAL LEARNING OUTCOMES

As we say goodbye to 2017 and welcome 2018, we also have the opportunity to welcome our new Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs). These outcomes, which are similar to the General Education Program Outcomes, will enable our institution to close the loop on assessment. In January, we will start the official roll-out of the Accountability Management System (AMS) in Taskstream-TK20. As departments/programs move from the assessment webpages into the AMS, they will be able to align their learning outcomes with the ILOs where appropriate. By measuring the program outcomes (in the Major, and General Education), we can also show, through this alignment, how we are meeting our institution-level outcomes. Our hope is that programs will use the evidence gathered from the assessment activities to make the appropriate changes to those programs to improve student learning.

The Institutional Learning Outcomes:

- **Think Critically**
 - Exercise synthetic, analytic and/or computational/quantitative reasoning as needed to solve problems.
 - Raise salient questions about the evidence, inferences, and conclusions of inquiries, including one's own inquiries.
 - Infer and assess the ambiguities, assumptions, values, and purposes at issue in inquiries, including one's own work.
- **Communicate Effectively**
 - Interpret and clearly present information in varied formats, such as graphs, charts, and multimedia projects.
 - Compose correct and clear written material in multiple formats such as research logs, researched reports, exam answers, and reflective essays.
 - Improve written and visual documents in response to feedback.
- **Understand and Value Differences**
 - Assess how different modes of inquiry and expression are appropriate in varied cultural and disciplinary contexts.
 - Exercise flexible habits of mind when exposed to diverse opinions, new ideas, and complex societal problems.
 - Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the nature of interpersonal, intragroup, and intergroup dynamics, and skills.
- **Use Information Ethically and Effectively**
 - Access and evaluate the reliability of information from varied sources, such as internet and library resources.
 - Use information sources ethically and responsibly.

According to a study by the American Association of Colleges and Universities, of which the U of A is a member, 85% of AAC&U institutions report that they have a common set of intended learning outcomes for all undergraduate students.