

Common Learning Outcome 4: Integrate knowledge, experience, and purpose

Hope graduates, informed by a Christian worldview, integrate the human experience, knowledge, and responsibility, and create from this their personal philosophy for a purposeful life.

Assessment Tools

Common Learning Outcome 4 assessment uses two assessment tools: the National Survey of Student Engagement survey results and the Senior Seminar Lifeview Paper.

The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) indirect assessment using a standardized, benchmarked tool developed by Indiana University. Outcome 4 assessment uses the Reflective & Integrative Learning measure of the NSSE survey.

Direct assessment of Senior Seminar Lifeview papers using a Hope-developed rubric.

Assessment Schedule

Results from the following assessments are reviewed every two years in the summer of even years by teams of faculty, staff, and students organized by the Assessment Committee.

The National Survey of Student Engagement is administered to first-year and senior students every two years in the Spring Semester of even years.

A sample of Lifeview Papers is collected every semester from each Senior Seminar course section. The collected artifacts are then assessed every two years in even years.

Assessment Target

Hope College seniors' mean NSSE score for Reflective & Integrative Learning will be greater than the aggregate Great Lakes Private institution's score, and over time, Hope will decrease the gap between the Hope seniors' mean score and that of our Carnegie Class institutions.

Eighty percent of Hope seniors will be at good (4) or excellent (5) on the 5-point rubric for the items "Describes a coherent and compelling philosophy of life," "Demonstrates commitments and convictions in conversation with the Christian Faith," and "Demonstrates engagement with diverse life-giving purposes and perspectives by which people live."

Assessment Sample and Process

Assessment sample

Instructors of each course section of the Senior Seminar collect a random sample of three Lifeview papers from sections completed in the Summer, Fall, and Spring terms and at the Muskegon location. In August of each even year, as the Anchor Plan Outcome 7 assessment, the Senior Seminar Director leads the assessment process. Support is provided by the Director of General Education and the Director of Assessment and Accreditation. The Senior Seminar Director prepares a report of the assessment results, including planned course improvements.

Hope senior student's results from the most recent NSSE Reflective & Integrative measures. All senior students receive a series of invitations and email reminders administered by Indiana University. Frost Center for Data and Research receives aggregate results, comparison reports, and individual student scores.

Assessment process

In the summer of each even year, staff and faculty members and Student Congress representatives participate in the Common Learning Outcome 4 assessment using the results from the above two samples. Compensation for faculty member's assessment work is at the rate approved by the Deans' Council. The Assessment Committee and the Director of Assessment and Accreditation lead the assessment process.

Members of the assessment team receive the report from the previous assessment of Common Learning Outcome 4 and results from the assessments described above. The assessment team convenes for a half-day discussion of the results and develops recommendations for action to improve student learning. They also consider any changes needed in the assessment targets.

The Director of Assessment and Accreditation prepares a summary of the Common Learning Outcome 4 assessment results, discussion, and recommendations. It is approved by the assessment team and provided to the Assessment Committee for review and approval in the Fall Semester of that year.

The Director of Assessment and Accreditation maintains data reports, assessment reports, and other documentation and correspondence related to this assessment within the shared data storage of the Frost Center for Data and Research.

Review of Results

Following their review and approval of the Common Learning Outcome 4 Assessment Report, the Assessment Committee shares the report and recommendations for actions to improve student learning with the Academic Affairs Board and the Deans' Council. The report is made available to the campus community through the Assessment Portal. The Assessment Committee and Director of Assessment and Accreditation are responsible for tracking the actions taken in response to the recommendations.