Course Outcome Learning Assessments (COLAs)

Definition: A COLA is the measurement of learning outcomes, specifically course objectives listed in an eCore course syllabus, through student performance on specific assignments, discussions, and exam questions in eCore courses. Effective FY 2011 (Summer 2010), a process for measuring the course outcomes is in place. Each eCore course is analyzed at the end of each term to determine whether outcomes have been met; followed by plans of adjustment for improvement in teaching, learning and curriculum.

Purpose: To measure learning outcomes through performance on specific assignments and examinations in eCore courses.

Process:

Key measures of learning outcomes within course were identified by eCore faculty. These include one or two for each learning outcome.

These measures come from examinations AND assignments rubrics.

POLS 1101 - Political Science - Sample, Not Actual Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LO #</th>
<th>LEARNING OUTCOME DETAIL</th>
<th>CORRESPONDING ASSESSMENT(S) (where outcomes are measured)</th>
<th>STUDENT SUCCESS IN COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Demonstrate a knowledge of the historical background, foundations, origins, content, and application of the U. S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights.</td>
<td>Discussion: 04 Compare Declaration and Constitution. Midterm Exam (Question 4.2, Matching-Implied Powers, Supremacy Clause, Concurrent Powers, Bill of Rights, Three-fifths compromise) see below.</td>
<td>FY 2011 81%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Demonstrate a knowledge of the Georgia Constitution.</td>
<td>Discussion: 05 GA vs. US Constitution. Midterm Exam (Question 5.6, “Georgia has a ___ . . .”) see below.</td>
<td>76%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Identify the institutions and processes of the three branches of government.</td>
<td>Discussion: 10 Presidential Power. Discussion: 09 House v. Senate. Discussion: 12 Lifetime Appointments</td>
<td>90% 88% 99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Develop an awareness of current political issues and the policy making process, both domestic and global.</td>
<td>Discussion: 14 Environmental Hazards in My Community. Discussion: 15 Foreign Policy.</td>
<td>65% 79%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

All eCore faculty participate in recording these measures.

Other Measures

In addition to the COLAs, comparability of learning outcomes between those students enrolled in an online course and the students enrolled in the same course taught in the traditional classroom settings are measured in the following ways:

- Regents Exam Comparison
- Overall assessments
- Success in follow-up courses after taking a prerequisite online
- Retention and course completion trends
- Addressed student complaints