



ALAMO
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PALO ALTO COLLEGE

Program Student Learning Assessment Plan/Report
Academic Year 2011/2012

Program/Award: AS Degree

Program Lead Faculty: Dean Tanner and Dean Shelman

Outcome #1	Communication Competency Outcome: Palo Alto College Students develop and express ideas through effective written, oral, and visual communication for various academic and professional contexts.				
Measures	General Education Assessment completed Fall 2011 on a sample of students with 45+ credit hours. Assessment of embedded assignments using a common rubric.				
Targets	70% of assignments either meet or exceed expectations on each of the three sub-outcomes.				
Findings	Core Course Results for Communication Fall 2011				
	Total Number of Communication Core Courses Identified	108			
	Total Number of Communication Core Courses Assessed	77	0.713	71%	Strongest Ratio
	Total Assessments for Outcome #1	154		* 2 assessors/assignment	
	Total Exceeds or Meets Outcome #1	145	0.942	94%	
	Total Assessments for Outcome #2	154		* 2 assessors/assignment	
	Total Exceeds or Meets Outcome #2	149	0.968	97%	Strongest Outcome
	Total Assessments for Outcome #3	154		* 2 assessors/assignment	
	Total Exceeds or Meets for Outcome #3	128	0.831	83%	Weakest Outcome
Assessment of Previous Cycle's Action Plan	<p>Comparison of Fall 2010 Findings to Fall 2011 Findings</p> <p>Communication Skills and Teamwork</p> <p>Communication Skills</p>				



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	Outcome	Fall 2010 Findings	Fall 2011 Findings	
	Content and Purpose	83% Meets or Exceeds (94/114)	93% Meets or Exceeds (143/154)	
	Organization	86% Meets or Exceeds (98/114)	97% Meets or Exceeds (149/154)	
	Tools	77% Meets or Exceeds (88/114)	82% Meets or Exceeds (126/154)	
New Action Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change/enrich the embedded assignments so that all the criteria on the rubric can be assessed (Alexis Lowe). Add to the existing rubric in order to help students better understand the expectations (Veronica Rosas-Tatum). Fitting sculpture assignments into the existing Communications rubric was awkward. We may need to create specialized rubrics for some disciplines (Catherine Brawley). 			
Outcome #2	Social Responsibility Competency Outcome: Palo Alto College Students demonstrate intercultural competency, civic knowledge, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities.			
Measures	<p>General Education Assessment completed Fall 2010 on a sample of students with 45+ credit hours. Assessment of embedded assignments using a common rubric.</p> <p>Courses in the degree plan that address this outcome are Core courses in the following core component areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Language, Philosophy, and Culture Creative Arts American History Government Social/Behavioral Sciences 			
Targets	70% of assignments either meet or exceed expectations on each of the three sub-outcomes.			
Findings	Comprehensive (Core) Results for Social Responsibility Assessed Fall 2010			
	Total Assessments for Outcome #1	59	Most Addressed and Strongest	
	Total Exceeds or Meets Outcome #1	51	0.864	86%



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	<div> <div>Total Assessments for Outcome #2</div> <div>34</div> </div> <div> <div>Total Exceeds or Meets Outcome #2</div> <div>29 0.853 85%</div> </div> <div> <div>Total Assessments for Outcome #3</div> <div>45</div> </div> <div> <div>Total Exceeds or Meets for Outcome #3</div> <div>36 0.8 80%</div> </div> <div>Least Addressed and Weakest</div>	
Assessment of Previous Cycle's Action Plan	We have only done one cycle. Our next assessment of Social Responsibility will occur Fall 2013.	
New Action Plans	Revise the assignment template (done Summer 2011) PAC Assessment Team will revisit the outcomes #2 and #3 on the rubric and discuss appropriateness of the outcomes and descriptions in the rubric. Create the faculty guideline document	
Outcome #3	Teamwork Competency Outcome: Palo Alto College Students consider different points of view and work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.	
Measures	General Education Assessment completed Fall 2011 on a sample of students with 45+ credit hours. Students, Teammates and Faculty assessed students on the three sub-outcomes using a common rubric. Courses in the degree plan that address this outcome are Core courses in the following core component areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication • Life and Physical Sciences • Government 	
Targets	70% of scores either meet or exceed expectations on each of the three sub-outcomes.	
Findings	Core Course Results for Teamwork Fall 2011	



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	<p>Total Number of Teamwork Core Courses Identified 67</p> <p>Total Number of Teamwork Core Courses Assessed 40 7 0.59 Weak #Assessed/#Identified Ratio</p> <p>Total Exceeds Outcome #1 28 0.7</p> <p>Total Meets Outcome #1 12 0.3</p> <p>Total Assessments for Outcome #2 40 See formula for assessment at the bottom of the rubric</p> <p>Total Exceeds Outcome #2 40 1 100%</p> <p>Total Assessments for Outcome #3 40 See formula for assessment at the bottom of the rubric</p> <p>Total Exceeds Outcome #3 33 5 0.82</p> <p>Total Meets for Outcome #3 7 5 0.17</p>			
Assessment of Previous Cycle's Action Plan	Teamwork			
	Fall 2010 Outcome	Fall 2010 Findings	Fall 2011 Outcome	Fall 2011 Findings
	<p>Specific Outcome #1</p> <p>Student(s) attend and actively participate in group functions and meetings.</p>	<p>96% Meets or Exceeds (23/24)</p>	<p>Specific Outcome #3</p> <p>The student models personal attributes that contribute to teamwork.</p>	<p>100% Meets or Exceeds (40/40)</p>
	Only one outcome was similar from both cycles since the Teamwork rubric was revised.			
New	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online classes present particular difficulties for teamwork; students who drop add to the difficulty (Ed Hagen). 			



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Action Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teamwork is problematic. It is difficult to come up with good assignments for face-to-face or internet classes (Carolyn De Lecour). The new online platform has great tools for collaboration and may help with the attempt to create effective teamwork assignments for online classes as well as for face-to-face classes (Suzel Molina). Other campuses have the same difficulties with teamwork and have generated a variety of possible solutions. Sharing teamwork ideas across the district will enrich us all. It may be best to start teamwork assignments closer to the end of class, with students who are more likely to stay with the class (Joseph Coppola). Most faculty chose to use the Teamwork Faculty Assessment form to assess their students. For the few faculty that did not exercise this option, it is suggested that background information be provided to the assessors, including the finished product of the Teamwork activity, to help them better judge the Teamwork outcomes for the identified student. (Joseph Coppola). 			
Outcome #4	Critical Thinking Competency Outcome: Palo Alto College Students use inquiry and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information, and innovation and creative thinking.			
Measures	General Education Assessment completed Spring 2011 on a sample of students with 45+ credit hours. Assessment of embedded assignments using a common rubric.			
Targets	70% of assessments either meet or exceed expectations on each of the three sub-outcomes.			
Findings	Core Course Results for Critical Thinking Spring 11			
	Total Number of Critical Thinking Core Courses Identified	70		
	Total Number of Critical Thinking Core Courses Assessed	49	0.7	70%
	Total Assessments for Outcome #1	84*		* 2 assessors/assignment
	Total Exceeds or Meets Outcome #1	70	0.833	83%
	Total Assessments for Outcome #2	76*		* 2 assessors/assignment
	Total Exceeds or Meets Outcome #2	66	0.868	87%

Weakest Ratio of Assessed to Identified

Strongest Outcome



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	<p>Total Assessments for Outcome #3 38* * 2 assessors/assignment</p> <p>Total Exceeds or Meets for Outcome #3 28 0.737 74% Weakest Outcome</p>
Assessment of Previous Cycle's Action Plan	We have only done one cycle. Our next assessment of Critical Thinking will occur Fall 2012.
New Action Plans	<p>Revise the assignment template (done Summer 2011)</p> <p>PAC Assessment Team will revisit outcome #3 to determine how this outcome can be better addressed across the college</p> <p>Create faculty guidelines document</p>
Outcome #5	Personal Responsibility Competency Outcome: Palo Alto College Students connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.
Measures	<p>General Education Assessment completed Spring 2011 on a sample of students with 45+ credit hours. Assessment of embedded assignments using a common rubric.</p> <p>Courses in the degree plan that address this outcome are Core courses in the following core component areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication • American History • Social/Behavioral Sciences • Kinesiology
Targets	70% of assessments either meet or exceed expectations on each of the three sub-outcomes.
Findings	<p>Comprehensive (Core) Results for Personal Responsibility Spring 2011</p> <p>This competency has the worst #Assessed/#Identified Ratio</p> <p>*2</p> <p>44 assessors/assignment Most Addressed & Weakest Outcome</p> <p>*t</p> <p>Total Assessments for Outcome #1</p>



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	<p>Total Exceeds or Meets Outcome #1 30 0.682 68%</p> <p>48</p> <p>Total Assessments for Outcome #2 * *2 assessors/assignment</p> <p>Total Exceeds or Meets Outcome #2 41 0.854 85% Strongest Outcome</p> <p>*2</p> <p>Total Assessments for Outcome #3 36 assessors/assignment Least Addressed Outcome</p> <p>* t</p> <p>Total Exceeds or Meets for Outcome #3 26 0.722 72%</p>
Assessment of Previous Cycle's Action Plan	We have only done one cycle. Our next assessment of Personal Responsibility will occur Fall 2013.
New Action Plans	<p>Revise the assignment template</p> <p>Create the faculty guidelines document</p> <p>PAC Assessment Team will revisit outcome #1 to determine if the outcome and the rubric descriptions are appropriate</p>
Outcome #6	Empirical and Quantitative Competency Outcome: Palo Alto College Students apply scientific and mathematical concepts to analyze and solve problems to investigate hypotheses.
Measures	<p>General Education Assessment completed Spring 2011 on a sample of students with 45+ credit hours. Assessment of embedded assignments using a common rubric.</p> <p>Courses in the degree plan that address this outcome are Core courses in the following core component areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mathematics Life and Physical Sciences Social/Behavioral Sciences



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Targets	70% of assessments either meet or exceed expectations on each of the three sub-outcomes.		
Findings	Comprehensive (Core) Results for E and Q Reasoning Skills Spring 2011		
	Total Assessments for Outcome #1	104* *2 assessors/assignment	
	Total Exceeds or Meets Outcome #1	80 0.769	77%
	Total Assessments for Outcome #2	102* *2 assessors/assignment	
	Total Exceeds or Meets Outcome #2	81 0.794	79%
	Total Assessments for Outcome #3	104* *2 assessors/assignment	
	Total Exceeds or Meets for Outcome #3	68 0.654	65%
Assessment of Previous Cycle's Action Plan	We have only done one cycle. Our next assessment of Personal Responsibility will occur Fall 2012.		
New Action Plans	Revisit the rubric sub-outcomes to see if they are appropriate for freshman and sophomore students Create faculty guidelines document PAC Assessment Team will discuss results of Outcome #3 with Math and Sciences faculty and develop a list of best practices to enhance student learning of this outcome.		