



# GSU Assessment Newsletter

“What and how students learn depends to a large extent on how they think they will be assessed. Assessment procedures must send the right signals” (Biggs, 1999).

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Volume 2 No. 2

April, 2006

## What's WEAVEonline?

As most of you know, this year's student learning outcomes assessment (LOA) reports will be submitted using WEAVEonline—a web-based reporting system that was developed at Virginia Commonwealth University. During the past month colleges and departments have been supplying the names of those who will have access to write or read to the LOA reports. WEAVE reflects the assessment cycle as expressed in the acronym of:

- **Writing** expected outcomes and objectives
- **Establishing** criteria for success
- **Assessing** performance against the criteria
- **Viewing** assessment results, and
- **Effecting** improvements through action

The WEAVEonline system has been adopted as the tool to organize and report assessment results for about 20 colleges and universities in eight states. Institutions using WEAVEonline range from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Texas

Tech University to several community colleges across the southeast and Midwest. Because it was designed to address the assessment questions embedded in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools accreditation process, the process of using WEAVEonline has facilitated SACS compliance.

As you can see from the screen shot below from the WEAVEonline website, the components of reports are very similar to the GSU template used for the past two years—Mission of the program, Outcomes/Objectives, Measures, Findings, Analysis, and Actions. What is different from our previous method of reporting is that all LOA reports will have the same organization and summary reports can be generated by capturing information across departments, colleges and the university. The WEAVEonline reporting system will be used by all academic programs as well as Administrative and Service units to report their planned outcomes/objectives evidence of their progress toward meeting these outcomes, and plans for future improvement.. As have been noted before, the goal of the assessment process is **not to prove that we're good, but that we use the assessment process to improve.**

### Example of WEAVEonline Overview Screen

#### Status Snapshot (Detailed Report)

	Completed	In Progress	None
<b>Mission</b>	12 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
<b>Outcomes/Objectives</b>	12 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
<b>Measures</b>	3 (25%)	0 (0%)	9 (75%)
<b>Findings</b>	3 (25%)	0 (0%)	9 (75%)
<b>Action Plan</b>	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	12 (100%)
<b>Analysis</b>	6 (50%)	0 (0%)	6 (50%)
<b>Annual Reporting</b>	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	12 (100%)

At the heart of reporting assessment results are the screens which follow: Outcomes/Objectives and Measures/Findings. Although the Outcomes example is from a program in dentistry, the assessment elements are the same for any academic program.

A person with write access for a program would type (or paste) the description of a learning outcome, indicate whether it was one of the GSU general education learning outcomes (and, if so, choose which one from the drop-down menu), If desired. A program can provide a reference to relevant professional standards or university priorities in establishing a context for objectives.

### Example of an Outcomes/Objectives screen

#### Edit Outcomes/Objectives for 2004 - 2005 Dentistry, D.D.S.

Outcome/Objective (Number  ) - max 50 characters:

#### Full Description:

Is this a Student Learning Outcome?  Yes  No

If yes, please select any General Education Outcomes that apply for undergraduate academic programs:

General Education Outcomes:

Learning Assessment Outcomes Reports For 2005-2006 should be posted on WEAVEonline By August 1, 2006