Anschutz

Campus Administrative Policy

Policy Title: **Student Learning Assessment**

Policy Number: 1024A Functional Area: Academic and Faculty Affairs

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Effective: October 23, 2026

Approved by: Laura Borgelt
Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

Applies to: CU Anschutz

A. Introduction

Regular assessment of student learning demonstrates a commitment to educational program quality and continuous improvement. It is expected by the university and its institutional and programmatic accreditors. For the purposes of this policy, "program" refers to all degree and for-credit certificate programs.

B. Policy Statement

1. Each degree and for-credit certificate program must have clearly defined student learning outcomes and a learning assessment plan.
2. Student learning assessment must be conducted on an annual basis and results presented in an annual report. (For certificate programs, the requirement for an annual report is waived for years in which fewer than five students were enrolled.)
3. Program faculty are responsible for the curriculum; therefore, they are also responsible for the development and implementation of learning assessment plans and any subsequent action.

C. Procedures

1. The Assessment Plan
   a. Learning assessment plans for all new degree and certificate programs must be submitted to the Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs (EVC-ASA) before the program can be added to the student

information system or the Academic Catalog. This is part of the program approval process outlined in Campus Administrative Policy 1038A.

b. Plans should be regularly reviewed by program faculty and updated as needed. It is recommended that assessment plans be reviewed as part of the program review process.

c. An assessment plan should:

1) List the student learning outcomes for the program. A degree program typically includes 3 to10 learning outcomes; a certificate program may include a smaller number.

2) Identify the learning experiences (e.g. courses, clinical experiences) that allow a student to acquire the knowledge or skills identified as learning outcomes.

3) Include a description of the key assessment methods that will be used to measure student learning for each outcome.

a) This can include a combination of direct measures (e.g., exams, projects) and indirect measures (e.g., student self-assessments, exit interviews with students).

b) For certificate programs, learning assessment can be based on the overall class performance for a specific assessment(s) rather than performance of individual students.

c) Course grades are generally not appropriate measures for learning assessment purposes and cannot be the only measure of a student learning outcome.

d. The plan may specify an assessment cycle that allows for focus on a particular course, sequence of courses, or set of learning outcomes in a given year, but all student learning outcomes should be assessed at least once every three years.

e. Assessment plans may be aligned with requirements of program accrediting bodies.

2. The Assessment Report

a. An assessment report must be submitted to the EVC-ASA on an annual basis.

b. The assessment report should include:

1) A summary of the assessments results, organized in either a matrix or narrative format.

2) A description of how assessment data were reviewed and evaluated (i.e., who was involved, how data were considered), and how it was determined whether action should be taken.

3) Program modifications that have been made, or are planned, based on the assessment results.

4) Information on whether any program modifications implemented in previous years had the intended effects on student learning.

3. Review of Assessment Activities

   a. If needed, a school/college or campus-level committee may be convened to provide guidance on assessment activities to ensure sound assessment practices.

Notes

1. History
   - January 15, 2003: Adopted
   - July 1, 2011: Updated and reinstated by the Provost
   - April 19, 2019: Modified to reflect a standardized format for campus policies.
   - October 23, 2026: Dual campus policy (7024: Outcomes Assessment) was recast into separate policies for Denver (7024D) and Anschutz (1024A); the Anschutz policy was also renamed and further revised.
2. Cross References/Appendix:
   - Campus Administrative Policy 1038A: Creating or Renaming Degree or Certificate Programs
3. Responsible Office: EVC for Academic and Student Affairs