

Annual Report for Assessment of Outcomes - GRN

(For Degree, Certificate or Core Outcomes)

To complete this Assessment Report, please address the questions below, and send to learningassessment@pcc.edu by **June 20, 2011**; subject line: REPORT Assessment [SAC]

1. Describe changes that have been implemented towards improving students' attainment of outcomes that resulted from outcome assessments carried out in the previous academic year.

(Information provided here may be referenced, inserted into or summarized in Program Review 2.C.iii (for Core Outcomes) or 6.B.iii (for CTE Degree and Certificate outcomes).

1. Assessment of all 6 core outcomes through the Life Stories Project in SOC223 Sociology of Aging, and the Applied Research Project in SOC230 Introduction to Gerontology.

Students were introduced to revised evaluation rubrics earlier in the term, so could plan their projects better, and other adjustments were made in how components of the projects were scheduled, which seemed to lead to a slight increase in better outcomes and in expressed student satisfaction with the evaluations (It is difficult to compare between terms, since they are different students). All projects were evaluated online in Word with changes tracked and the completed rubric inserted, so Gerontology students could save the evaluated projects for their ePortfolios.

2. Assessment of core outcome 6 Professional Competency, through the Final Report for Gerontology Internships, GRN280A, based on an assessment of how well the students met their Learning Objectives.

This assessment has required a gradual shift in the original creation of Learning Objectives for internships and some changes in how the internship evaluation is conducted. We are already seeing that students are taking the formulation of their Learning Objectives more seriously, and we have taken steps to make sure that both students and their supervisors have copies of their Training Agreement and Learning Objectives so that both are conducting their evaluations on the same standards.

2. Identify the outcomes assessed this year, and describe the methods used. What were the results of the assessment (i.e., what did you learn about how well students are meeting the outcomes)?

(Information provided here may be referenced, inserted into or summarized in Program Review 2.C.i& ii (for Core Outcomes) or 6.B.i & ii (for CTE Degree and Certificate outcomes)

a. Describe the method(s) you used.

1. All 6 core outcomes assessed through SOC223 Sociology of Aging Life Stories Project:

- 87 projects that were completed in 3 sections; students were non-Gerontology students or Gerontology students near the beginning of their Degree or Certificates

- The assessment was the Life Stories Project – the capstone project for the course
- A grading rubric based on the course outcomes, which are aligned with the Degree Outcomes, was used

2. All 6 core outcomes assessed through SOC230 Introduction to Gerontology Applied Research Project:

- 56 projects completed within 3 sections; students were non-Gerontology students or Gerontology students near the beginning or middle of their Degree or Certificates
- The assessment was the Applied Research Project – the capstone project for the course
- A grading rubric based on the course outcomes, which are aligned with the Degree Outcomes, was used

3. Core Outcome 6 assessed through GRN280A Gerontology Internship:

- 50 internships were completed over 4 terms (Summer 2010 through Spring 2011), with all students completing their evaluation and all supervisors submitting the standard Cooperative Education evaluation.
- The assessment was the final report evaluating the internship in terms of how well the students met their Learning Objectives.
- The grading rubric was designed to fit diverse internships with individualized learning objectives. The supervisor's evaluation was the standard Cooperative Education Employer Evaluation Form.

b. Results: What did you learn?

How well did your students do? Do the assessment results match your aspirations for your students? Did your assessment indicate any areas or aspects in which student achievement could be better?

1. SOC223 Life Stories Project

- Of 87 projects evaluated, the average score was 90%, with a range of 70 to 100%.
- Aspirations for the students were met. Because the project was based on assignments student submitted throughout the term, students were prepared for the standards to be met in the final project.
- The lowest score was for relating the individual life stories to broader social and historical trends, which some students accomplished only on a superficial level.

2. SOC230 Applied Research Project

- Of 56 projects evaluated, the average score was 88% with a range of 70 to 100%
- Aspirations for the students were met. The project is broken into parts of defining the project question, conducting research, and preparing a proposal. This process allowed for timely input to keep students focused on the evaluation standards.
- Some students needed more guidance on finding research-based and evidence-based resources, and a few students did not meet the standard for applying research to their proposal.

3. GRN280A Gerontology Internship

- Of the 50 internships, all students received full points for their final reports, reporting on how well they met their learning objectives. All supervisors gave high marks to the interns.
- Aspirations for the students were met. All supervisors reported they were pleased with the contribution and progress of the students.
- Using the final reports of students and the evaluation form of the supervisors makes it difficult to differentiate highly successful students from students who made great strides, but still have additional skills to develop. Making the reports explicitly linked to the students' Learning Objectives did have a positive result of helping students to identify gaps they wanted to address in future internships.

3. Identify any changes that should, as a result of this assessment, be implemented towards improving students' attainment of outcomes.

(Information provided here may be referenced, inserted into or summarized in Program Review 2.C.iii (for Core Outcomes) or 6.B.iii (for CTE Degree and Certificate outcomes)

1. Anticipated changes in SOC223 and 230 Capstone Project Assessments:

Planned for AY2011-12: With the introduction of ePortfolios for the Gerontology Program in the Fall, the evaluated capstone projects from SOC223 and 230 will be added to the students' individual portfolios, so they can return to the projects in the professional seminar (GRN282), make revisions or otherwise capture the projects as presentations.

To provide students with better feedback, we may break the rubric into more discrete items to focus more exactly on specific core outcomes.

2. Anticipated changes in GRN280A Internship Assessments:

Planned for AY2011-12: We will finalize the evaluation procedure for internships, including the roles played by students, instructors and supervisors, and assign, more reliable measures for the diverse kinds of learning objectives associated with diverse internships. The key will be to distinguish the course grade from the assessment score. Students in the initial stages of their internship requirements may have many skills to develop, while still receiving a high grade for the internship.