

# Annual Report for Assessment of Outcomes

## (For Degree, Certificate or Core Outcomes)

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

*Submitted: June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011*

*SAC: LAT; Landscape Technology*

*Outcomes Assessed: Landscape Technology AAS*

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).*

In 2009-10, we submitted a plan to assess students on Critical Thinking Core Outcome. Thus far, we have not implemented that plan in the CSS 200 - Soils and Plant Nutrition class (Winter 2011). The final group project in CSS 200 is still a good tool to assess our student's critical thinking skills in the first year of their Landscape Technology course work since it is needed for all of our certificates and the AAS degree. Since we have been using this final project for awhile now in that particular class, I believe our students level of critical thinking is developing at best. I hope to implement the plan next school year (2011-12) to verify my suspicions.

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.**

We opted to have our employers from the LAT 280A - Cooperative Education: Landscape class fill out an evaluation form (attached) that would help us assess individual student skills, and if our objectives of the LAT program were indeed working.

- Unfortunately, our sample size was very small; only 2 students signed up for the class this quarter (Spring 2011) and were assessed. Both students are in the second year of the program nearing completion of their AAS degrees.
- Each employer was given an evaluation form that asked them to rate the students skill level in several areas related to our specific program outcomes. The form provided boxes to check off their assessment as well as an area for extensive comments (or explanations) about the student assessment and/or the program. Basically, students completed performance tasks on the job and observations were noted by the individual employers.
- Each form was looked at by the SAC to determine completion of the form, and the validity of the comments.

## **b. Results: What did you learn?**

We learned our students are doing quite well in industry. Employers appreciated the knowledge and skills they brought to the job, as well as the knowledge and skills they could pass along to others in the work environment. It matched what we anticipate for all of our graduating students well, and confirmed our belief in using cooperative education as the vehicle for moving our students out into the “real” world of landscaping.

- Out of 5 categories of: Outstanding, Very Good, Average, Needs Improvement, and Unsatisfactory; all but one was scored with “Outstanding”, one with “Very Good”, the rest of the categories were marked with N/A for not applicable. Most of the N/A’s were in the Certificate/Licensing portion of the form, or in specific communication skill sets, such as written or graphic skills, which were not exhibited during their time of employment. Explanation of the “Very Good” rating was included in the comments. Both employers felt the program provided them with excellent employees and expressed an interest continuing a relationship with the LAT program and our students.

The SAC was excited to have our hopes for our students confirmed from the results. The Certificate/Licensing portion of the form may need to be modified and/or expanded to explain the requirements for each certificate/licensing for proper employer rating. Or perhaps, a better explanation by the instructor is needed during the site visit, before dropping off the form.

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)*

Every indication (from this small survey and past anecdotal information from cooperative education instructors) is that we are doing great in the production of competent and skilled workers for the field of landscaping. Our program has been based on learning “hands-on” skills through competencies, and knowledge and communication through projects, quizzes and exams in the classroom. We strive to give out information for a multitude of learning styles to give them an experience that will prove to be valuable in the “real world” of landscaping. I think we are successful in this endeavor.

One way we see improving our program is to improve retention of students beyond the first year of completion to the second. Our courses get dramatically more difficult as the student progresses through the program. Keeping their interest level high and maintaining that as they polish their skills is where we need to focus. Once they get to the cooperative education phase they are most likely to complete the program. It either confirms or denies their aspirations. Most of them see it as a helpful and positive investment in their future, which moves them further along to completion. Informing students of this opportunity earlier in the program, as they end their first year, would be helpful in retention.

EMPLOYER EVALUATION COOPERATIVE WORK EXPERIENCE-LANDSCAPE	Outstanding	Very Good	Average	Needs Improvement	Unsatisfactory	Not Applicable	Not Observed
<u>Professional Competence</u> How well does the student function as a competent landscape professional in the following categories?							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical Skills</li> </ul>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsibility</li> </ul>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiative</li> </ul>							
<u>Certification/Licensing</u> Based on your knowledge of industry standards, how would you rate the student's ability to obtain the following certification and/or licensing?							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pesticide Applicator License</li> </ul>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified Landscape Technician</li> </ul>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified Landscape Professional</li> </ul>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oregon Landscape Contractors License</li> </ul>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ISA Certified Arborist</li> </ul>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Association of Professional Landscape Designers Certification</li> </ul>							





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