Rubrics

Scoring rubrics are explicit schemes for classifying products or behaviors into categories that vary along a continuum. They can be used to classify virtually any product or behavior, such as essays, research reports, portfolios, works of art, recitals, oral presentations, performances, and group activities. Judgments can be self-assessments by students, or judgments can be made by others, such as faculty, other students, fieldwork supervisors, and external reviewers. Rubrics should be used to provide formative feedback to students, to grade students, and/or to assess programs. Rubrics are required for all course, program, and institutional student learning outcome assessments and should be used as a concrete way of communicating performance expectations in relation to the expected student learning outcomes.

A free source to assist in the development of course-specific rubrics is found at the following website: http://rubistar.4teachers.org/index.php

Student Learning Outcomes

The development and assessment of student learning outcomes (SLOs) and service unit outcomes (SUOs) has become a focus for Ventura College. This process is a significant component of both program review and institutional effectiveness. Individual faculty will be expected to:

- Include SLOs on all syllabi.
- Discuss SLOs and SLO assessment with students.
- Contribute to this process each semester by assessing the appropriate course, program, and/or institutional SLO or SUO.
- Report assessment results using TracDat, the college's electronic depository for this information.
- Participate in the collaborative SLOs/SUOs and program review processes.

The goal is to gather data based on SLOs/SUOs and use the resultant data to make informed decisions for program improvement and planning that support student learning and achievement.

A *Toolkit for Assessment and Improvement 2010* has been developed to help guide faculty and staff through the assessment process. The toolkit provides user-friendly strategies for the three key steps in the process:

1. Development of student learning outcomes
2. Measurement of student learning outcomes
3. Application of assessment results to improve college programs across the college including academic, instructional and student support services, functional units, and business services

A copy of the *Toolkit* can be found at the following link:

http://www.venturacollege.edu/college_information/student_learning_outcomes/faculty_resources.shtml

Faculty SLO facilitators are available to provide assistance through the process. The Student Learning Outcome Committee will also meet to monitor and evaluate the entire process.

Institutional, program, and course level SLOs and SUOs are assessed on a two year rotational cycle.

For information specifically about TracDat, please contact