

An Overview of Assessment for Administrative Units

Continuous Improvement

Institutions of higher learning are not stagnant; they are living, evolving systems that continue to develop over time.

To meet our institutional mission and ongoing strategic plans, Lander University engages in continuous improvement of academic and non-academic services which directly and indirectly affect delivery of the very best education to all students.

Continuous improvement requires setting goals, assessing progress toward goals, and informed reflection on assessment outcomes in an way that reinforces current success, and redirects efforts as needed to ensure future success.

What is SACSCOC?

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) is the regional body for the accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions in the Southern states.

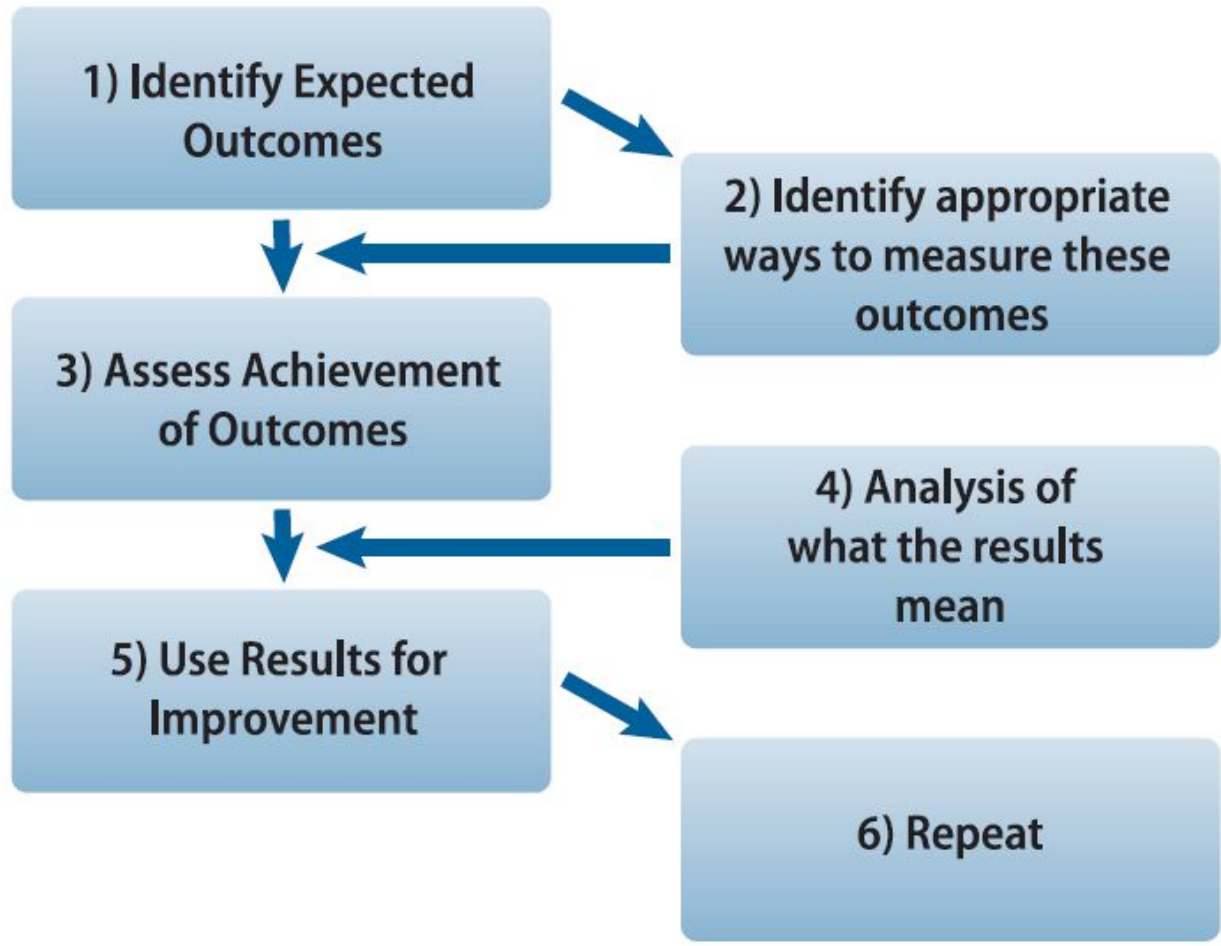
We submit a huge report to them every 10 years and a smaller report every 5 years. These reports contain multiple standards that we must comply with and respond to in the report.

SACSCOC Standard 8.2

The institution **identifies** expected outcomes, **assesses** the extent to which it achieves these outcomes, and **provides evidence of seeking improvement based on analysis of the results.**

What does SACSCOC expect?

- At the time of its review, the institution is responsible for providing evidence of “seeking improvement.”
- The institution should be using the data to inform changes based on evaluation of its findings.
- Plans to make improvements do not qualify as seeking improvement, but efforts to improve a program that may not have been entirely successful certainly do.
- [Further reading on standard](#)



Assessment Reports

- **Assessment reports are submitted by each unit to foster continuous improvement at the University and to meet the SACSCOC standard.**
- They are then sent to each VP and posted on our website.
- VP's should review and make make necessary changes in their areas based on results. Could be budget changes.
- Any large changes that should be made go to the Board of Trustees for their approval
- They are submitted to SACSCOC when we go through the review process
- [Link to Assessment Report Template](#)
- [Link to Assessment Webpage](#) - Includes all assessments collected from each unit.

Assessment Cycle

Activity	Date
Begin preparation for upcoming report	May-September
Reports due for all units	October 1
Vice Presidents' and President's Review	December/January
Recommendations to Board of Trustees	February/March
Units receive updated budgets and revisions/directives resulting from the review process	April/May

Common Assessment Report Issues

1. Plans for improvements with no actual improvements
2. No improvements or changes made at all. “No changes made at this time”
3. Changes/improvements made but not related to results
4. Consistently meeting targets being set. Indicates continuous improvement is not happening.

Questions?

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Additional Videos:

- [Developing Goals and Outcomes](#)
- [Completing and Submitting your Assessment Report](#)