Putting the ‘Student’ in Student Learning Outcomes

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• Faculty routinely evaluate student performance, using various measures to determine how well students meet defined course goals
• Student performance in courses is often linked to attainment of Program-level Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs) (referred to as Student Outcomes in our surveys)
• Typical assessment frameworks overlook the direct engagement of students in assessing their own progress toward meeting course goals and PSLOs
• This project developed survey instruments for engaging students in their own assessment and piloted their use for assessment during 2012-2013

Sample Initial Survey

Motivation

Some Comparative Results

Next Steps

References


• Course 1: Professional Communications
  o A required lower-level course focused on writing and speaking tasks for computer scientists
• Course 2: Programming Language Concepts
  o A required upper-level course presenting a broad overview of programming languages and paradigms
• Course 3: Database Concepts
  o An upper-level elective covering basic data management concepts (this course has become required since Fall Semester 2013)
  o This course was taught in a compressed format so the initial survey was not administered

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Course 1</th>
<th>Course 2</th>
<th>Course 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial Survey – unaware of PSLOs</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial Survey – thought there should be additional course goals</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial Survey – thought listed course goals might support other PSLOs</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Survey – agreed that progress toward PSLOs was made</td>
<td>45-80%</td>
<td>71-95%</td>
<td>87-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Survey – felt no course goals were missing from those stated at the outset</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Survey – progress in achieving PSLOs not formally associated with the course</td>
<td>55-80%</td>
<td>55-95%</td>
<td>73-100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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