

# Newsletter

San Diego  
Continuing  
Education  
Student  
Learning  
Outcomes  
Taskforce

## THE SPEEDY S.L.O.

### Student Learning Outcomes are Central to Accreditation

*Did you know?*

- Accreditation is the vehicle through which SDCE renews its license to continue to serve our students and community with excellence.
- The Mid-term Accreditation Progress Report is being finalized with a virtual one-day progress visit scheduled for April 29th 2021.
- Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) are at the center of accreditation and are listed first (1st) among the ten criteria used for Postsecondary Schools. See the Accrediting Commission for Schools (ACS) Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Criteria below:

#### **ACS WASC POSTSECONDARY CRITERIA**

1. Institutional Mission and Schoolwide Learner Outcomes (SLOs)
2. Organizational Infrastructure and School Leadership
3. Faculty and Staff
4. Curriculum
5. Instructional Program
6. Use of Assessment
7. Student Support Services
8. Resource Management
9. Community Connection
10. Action Plan for Ongoing Improvement

Fall Edition

CONTINUING EDUCATION 

January 20, 2021

*“...Student Learning Outcomes are at the center of accreditation and are listed first among ACS WASC Criteria for Postsecondary Schools..”*

## WHAT DOES ACS WASC LOOK FOR?

ACS WASC conducts a value-added evaluation and looks for how schools **add value** through **SLOs**. Specifically, the team wants to know how we add value by ...

- Increasing what students **know**
- Increasing what students **can do**
- Improving how students **feel**
  - → About themselves
  - → About others
  - → About learning

### MAIN QUESTIONS

Institutional Perspective	Faculty Perspective
How well are our students achieving?	How well are my students achieving?
Is the school doing everything possible to support high achievement of all its students?	Are faculty doing everything possible to support high achievement of all their students?

**Source:** ACS WASC (2018). Focus on Learning on Target for 21st Century Schools After the Visit: “The Now What?” Retrieved from <http://www.acswasc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/ACS-WASC-Follow-up-After-Full-Visit.pdf>



**Share the excitement about the SLO Task Force's  
upcoming Spring 2021 Webinars:**

- **Effective Practices, Assessments, and Timesavers for the SDCE Online Classroom by SDCE Faculty.** SDCE faculty panel share best practices and resources with colleagues during Spring FLEX (1/29 @ 9 AM)
- **Using SDCE's New SLO Tracking System: Campus Labs Outcomes Module.** Webinar will cover use of Campus Labs Outcomes module as a tool for determining the measurability of SLOs, completing and capturing assessments (formative/summative), creating curriculum maps and using results. **SAVE THE DATE: Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup>,** option of morning or afternoon session.



- BLOOM'S TAXONOMY
- BROAD END PRODUCTS OF LEARNING
- MEASURABLE STATEMENTS
- COMPREHENSIBLE BY STUDENTS

## Remember Your ABCs of SLOs!

- ✚ Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) are the end products of a course and describe what students should know, think, and do as a result of the teaching.
- ✚ Ideally each course should have at least 2 BUT no more than 4 or 5 measurable (demonstrable/observable) student learning outcome statements.
- ✚ Each course should have the EXACT same learning outcomes regardless of who teaches the course to help ensure consistency of outcomes for all students.
- ✚ Use verbs from new Bloom's Taxonomy to describe what successful students do.
- ✚ Consider using/describing the course capstone project, or a couple of its parts, as the SLO(s).
- ✚ Using SLOs and their assessment as exit criteria (for certificates & grades) is a best practice and ensures that students have mastered the competencies/content standards prior to course/program completion.





## The Faculty Spotlight: Margaret Posner

Margaret Posner provides leadership and support to our institution as the new SDCE Accreditation and Planning Coordinator. In addition to coordinating activities related to the SDCE Self-Study Report and Action Plan, Margaret serves as one of the chairs to the tri-chair Planning and Institutional Effectiveness Committee. Margaret is a member of the English as a Second Language (ESL) program where she has been teaching and providing exemplary service. She is also a proud member and worker bee on the SLO Task Force.

*Congratulations and thanks for all you do!*

## SDCE Student Learning Outcomes Task Force



### The SLO Taskforce

- Mary Burns
- Lisa Cork
- Marie Doerner
- Marne Foster
- Veleka Iwuaba
- Diana Vera-Alba
- Margaret Posner
- Debbie Flores



SDCE SLO Coordinator celebrating Madam Vice President Kamala Harris first woman and person of color to hold The Office of Vice President of The United States of America

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**Special Thanks to** Mary Burns, Marie Doerner, Lisa Cork, Diana Vera-Alba, Veleka Iwuaba, Debbie Flores, Margaret Posner and Marne Foster for your work and serving on the SLO Task Force!

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:**

2021 SLO Symposium is January 29<sup>th</sup>

Register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/8th-annual-slo-symposium-tickets-124649555175>



The Speedy SLO is the official Student Learning Outcomes newsletter of San Diego Continuing Education (SDCE). Published biannually by the San Diego Continuing Education SLO Task Force, the Speedy SLO provides SDCE faculty and professional staff with the most up to date information relating to student learning outcomes at the institution. Checkout SLO website by clicking on link below:

<https://sdce.edu/content/sdce-outcomes-and-assessment>

**The SLO Taskforce Needs YOU  YOUR Voice!**

The focus of the SLO Coordinator and SLO Task Force is the improvement of teaching and learning through the understanding, use and assessment of learning outcomes, including the following best practices:

- transparent assignments
- Backwards Design/Understanding by Design
- aligning grades/certificates to SLOs
- mapping SLOs to program and institutional outcomes
- ongoing faculty trainings aimed at institutionalizing a student assessment process

The SLO Taskforce meets on the second Wednesday of the month during 2020-21. The Task Force, chaired by the SLO Coordinator, helps to inform and review the SLO process so that it consistently supports faculty and fosters student success. SLOs are the purview of faculty. Therefore, it is important that programs be represented on the taskforce and have input on the institutional effectiveness efforts regarding SLOs:

- Implementation of SLO software system
- Student Learning Outcomes assessment
- Professional Development as it relates to student learning