

Provost's Degree Program Assessment: Annual Update 2014

Introduction

In July 2012, Organizational Learning and Instructional Technology (OLIT) moved from the College of Education to University Libraries. The move was officially completed in July 2013 at which point OLIT was renamed Organization, Information, and Learning Sciences (OILS) under the College of University Libraries & Learning Sciences (UL&LS). OILS offers three programs: a Bachelor of Science in Technology and Training (2+2 Program), an M.A. in Organization, Information, and Learning Sciences, and a Ph.D. in Organization, Information, and Learning Sciences. In addition, OILS has an Education Specialist Certificate in Organization, Information, and Learning Sciences on the books.

Last year, OILS began the transition from mapping SLOs to individual classes to aggregating data from key milestones. OILS (1) lifted the moratorium on admitting new students to the Technology & Training bachelor degree program and developed a process for aggregating data their culminating practicum, (2) developed a process for aggregating data from master students' portfolios from their capstone internship portfolios, and (3) developed a process for aggregating data from doctoral student core courses, comprehensive examinations, and dissertations proposals and defenses. OILS began collecting data on master students during Fall semester of 2013 and on doctoral students during Spring semester of 2014. OILS faculty decided to delay the evaluation of the Education Specialist Certificate program until 2015-2016, as there are no students enrolled.

Bachelor of Science in Technology and Training (2+2 Program)

Scale	Maturity	Score
5	Program has a culture of continuous improvement of student learning. Assessment is routine and ongoing.	
4	Program has analyzed data and made changes as appropriate to improve pedagogy, courses, curriculum, and/or assessment plan.	
3	Program is collecting data.	
2	Program has an approved assessment plan.	2
1	Program has no assessment plan or merely has SLOs.	

Score: 2

Evidence: The UL&LS OILS 2+2 Technology & Training program allows students with an Associate's Degree to transfer up to 30 credit hours of technical education from a community college, combine it with two more years of additional coursework at the university level, and complete the requirements for the B.S. degree.

In last year's Maturity Assessment, we reported:

When Organizational Learning and Instructional Technology (OLIT) moved to University Libraries in 2012, their faculty expressed concerns about the rigor and direction of the program and the preparation of the students, so the Dean placed a moratorium on admissions to the program in 2013 and asked for a program assessment. UL&LS conducted an assessment interviewing faculty, instructors, students, and alumni that did confirm the concerns about rigor and student preparedness, but more critically, it also confirmed the value of the program.

OILS faculty held a two-day retreat in fall of 2013 to make a recommendation on the future of the 2+2 Technology & Training program. Based upon the evidence in the report, firsthand knowledge of the program, unique program offerings, continued interest by prospective students, and dialogue during the retreat, the OILS faculty recommended that UL&LS reinvigorate the 2+2 program by providing new leadership, increasing admission standards and rigor, modifying the curriculum, training instructors, improving advisement, and assessing student learning and workforce impact. This will require hiring a tenure track or tenured faculty member and designating a current staff member to provide advisement to the 2+2 program. The UL&LS Dean's Cabinet approved and the Dean is bringing the recommendation forward to the Provost.

The Dean lifted the moratorium as recommended and OILS began admitting students to the Technology & Training program.

Plans: OILS has set a three year assessment period for the OILS 2+2 Technology & Training program – 2014-2015 is the first year. OILS will collect data in 2014-2015. The data will be collected and aggregated from the student portfolio associated with the required culminating 100 hour practicum. The performance benchmark is that 90% of all students will score an "acceptable or better" on each Student Learning Outcome. Assessment will be conducted in 2015-2016 along with recommendations for changes will be implemented in 2016-2017.

Once the program was revitalized and the moratorium was lifted, UL&LS added a faculty member to the 2014-2015 hiring plan who will serve as a program coordinator with the charge to lead, administer, coordinate, and take primary responsibility for reinvigorating the 2+2 program. Among other duties, the 2+2 program coordinator will assess the curriculum and student learning outcomes and make modifications that will best serve New Mexico workforce needs. That hire is advertised and will take place in 2014-2015.

M.A. in Organization, Information, and Learning Sciences

Scale	Maturity	Score
5	Program has a culture of continuous improvement of student learning. Assessment is routine and ongoing.	
4	Program has analyzed data and made changes as appropriate to improve pedagogy, courses, curriculum, and/or assessment plan.	
3	Program is collecting data.	3
2	Program has an approved assessment plan.	
1	Program has no assessment plan or merely has SLOs.	

Score: 3

Evidence: The OILS M.A. program developed a new assessment plan and began collecting data in Fall of 2013 and Spring of 2014. Prior assessment plans mapped SLOs to individual classes. The new assessment plan aggregates data from master students' portfolios from their capstone internship portfolios. Three faculty members assessed the data and one faculty member aggregated it.

Plans: OILS has set a three year assessment period for the M.A. program. OILS faculty will continue to score and aggregate student data from the portfolios. 100% of students scored "acceptable or better" on each Student Learning Outcome, meaning that OILS exceeded the performance benchmark of 90%. Further assessment will be conducted in 2014-2015 along with recommendations for changes to be implemented in 2015-2016.

Ph.D. in Organization, Information, and Learning Sciences

Scale	Maturity	Score
5	Program has a culture of continuous improvement of student learning. Assessment is routine and ongoing.	
4	Program has analyzed data and made changes as appropriate to improve pedagogy, courses, curriculum, and/or assessment plan.	
3	Program is collecting data.	3
2	Program has an approved assessment plan.	
1	Program has no assessment plan or merely has SLOs.	

Score: 3

Evidence: The OILS Ph.D. program developed a new assessment plan and began collecting data in Spring of 2014. Prior assessment plans mapped SLOs to individual classes. The new assessment plan aggregates data from doctoral student core courses, comprehensive examinations, and dissertations proposals and defenses. Multiple faculty members assessed the data and one faculty member aggregated it.

Plans: OILS has set a three year assessment period for the Ph.D. program. OILS faculty will continue to score and aggregate student data from the portfolios. OILS set performance benchmark of 80% for each SLO. OILS did not reach benchmarks when students were assessed at the pre-comprehensives stage, but did reach the benchmark for all SLOs at comprehensives. Though cross sectional, this indicates growth. Further assessment will be conducted in 2014-2015, along with changes in feedback on student writing in response to one finding. Other recommendations for changes will be made in 2014-2015 and implemented in 2015-2016.

Education Specialist Certificate in Organization, Information, and Learning Sciences

Scale	Maturity	Score
5	Program has a culture of continuous improvement of student learning. Assessment is routine and ongoing.	
4	Program has analyzed data and made changes as appropriate to improve pedagogy, courses, curriculum, and/or assessment plan.	
3	Program is collecting data.	
2	Program has an approved assessment plan.	
1	Program has no assessment plan or merely has SLOs.	1

Score: 1

Evidence: The Education Specialist Certificate is designed to provide advanced study beyond the master’s degree for students who do not wish to pursue a doctorate. Currently, there are no students enrolled in the OILS Education Specialist Certificate program.

Plans: OILS faculty will review the Education Specialist Certificate program for future viability in 2015-2016.