Tips for Doing Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) Online in Spring 2020

Office of Institutional Effectiveness
William Paterson University

As all of WP courses shifted to online this spring '20 semester, below you will find some tips to help you navigate shifting your SLO assessment to online this current semester as well.

- **Consider limiting the number of SLOs you assess this semester. Remember, you don't have to assess all of your SLOs each semester anyway, so consider choosing only 1 or 2 SLOs to assess this semester.**
- If you did some elements of your assessment activities during the early part of the semester (like a pre-writing essay/test/etc.) in a face-to-face setting before courses were moved online, integrate that piece of assessment into your final online assessment.
- Make use of the LMS in place (Blackboard Collaborate) and other platforms such as Teams to have students submit their portfolios, term projects, or whatever measure/assignment you are using to assess this semester.
- Develop a brief but concise rubric to assess student success for the SLO regardless of whether students are submitting assignments using LMS platforms or simply through email to the professor. This encourages fairness and equity in assessment.
- In situations where collaboration is needed amongst faculty to grade the assessment assignment, it might be useful to develop a shared drive on the LMS platform, Teams or on the K drive where selected student work can be shared with all faculty involved in doing the assessing. After this collaborative grading, make use of the Teams/WebEx/other conferencing resource to discuss results and finalize assessment of the SLO.
- Examine for evidence on the impact of the shift in modality from in-class to online on student performance. For example, if there were assessment measures conducted early in the semester, how did success in those early assignments compare to success in the later ones?
- Program Assessment coordinators should enter SLO assessment results into Campus Labs Outcomes and connect the results back to Campus Labs Planning to generate a data report on your assessment results. Consider setting up another Teams or WebEx meeting with the faculty involved in this semester's assessment to discuss the results and begin some preliminary planning for next semester's (or summer) courses.