

# **A Brief Background of the WSU University-Wide Student Learning Outcomes Development**

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## Spring 2012: Emergent Need to Close the University-Wide Assessment Loop

In the follow-up Assurance Report to the March 2012 HLC site visit, the HLC site visit team observed that they *“could not find evidence to indicate that the results of departmental assessment come together to provide measures of institutional effectiveness. Further, results of assessment do not appear to be systematically reported throughout the institution. The lack of a formal system for evaluation and communication of assessment activities results in an institution that is forced to make decisions that may be without the advantage of the fuller vision afforded by assessment and the entailing feedback loops.”* As a result, the HLC requested WSU address the following in its progress report: *“Using program reviews, assessment reports, etc., there should be a systematic way of organizing and then analyzing these reports so that WSU can get a continuing snapshot of institutional effectiveness. The plan should have a means of communicating assessment results horizontally and vertically throughout the institution, with feedback loops created to form a better alignment between the units and the whole.”*

## Fall 2013: Establishment of the ImpAACT

To facilitate the collection and sharing of assessment results, the university created two new All-University committees to work with an existing third committee (Finance and Facilities). The Improvement, Accreditation, and Assessment Committee (ImpAACT) is one of them, and its charge is to *“Propose, review, initiate and coordinate short-term initiatives for university improvement that are based on analysis of institutional-level data in preparation for the next accreditation, and develop assessment tool for evaluation of initiatives from the Long-Range Planning Committee.”*

## Spring 2014 through Spring 2015: Development of University-Wide Student Learning Outcomes

In the ImpAACT meeting in January 2014, the decision was made to develop and propose a set of University-Wide Student Learning Outcomes (WSU SLOs) along with an assessment plan for these outcomes. These outcomes will be used to collect relevant assessment efforts already happening across the university and to identify areas of achievement as well as areas for improvement. A small subgroup of faculty led the effort to draft the outcomes (using the AAC&U LEAP outcomes as a guide). The ImpAACT discussed and revised the draft SLOs and shared it with all constituency groups on campus. In Spring 2015, after receiving feedback from the campus community, the ImpAACT finalized the SLOs, with an understanding that they will be subject to a five-year review.

## Starting in Summer/Fall 2015: Aligning Existing Assessment Activities and Results with the University-Wide SLOs

The assessment subgroup in the ImpAACT Committee will identify and gather existing assessment activities and results that align with the university-wide SLOs.