It is recommended program assessment results be used to *celebrate achievements of student learning* as well as to *identify potential areas for future curriculum improvement*.

Please email this completed form as an attachment to **thatcherk@slu.edu**

1. **Degree Program(s) included in this report**: Physics BA and Physics BS
2. **Department**: Physics
3. **School/Center/College**: Arts and Sciences
4. **Name(s)**: William D. Thacker
5. **Email**: thackerwd@slu.edu
6. **Phone**: 314-977-8422

**Instructions**: Please answer the following **five** questions to the best of your ability for each degree program offered within your department.

1. **Summarize your assessment activities** during the past year for each degree program and how this work relates to the established assessment plan (*e.g. what program outcomes were assessed, faculty discussions, new survey design, data collection, revised assessment plans or learning outcomes, etc.*). Please include how Madrid courses/program were involved.

   We developed a new assessment plan for our Physics BA and BS degree programs in the fall. After receiving feedback on the plan in May, we reduced the number of Student Learning Outcomes from eleven to six by eliminating redundant outcomes and outcomes that apply to the college core and not the program. Two outcomes will be assessed each year on a three year cycle. The outcomes were assessed and discussed in a department meeting.

2. **Describe specific assessment findings** related to the **learning outcomes** assessed for each degree program, including any pertinent context surrounding the findings. Please include the **learning outcomes themselves**. (*e.g. Our goal was that 75% of students performed at the “proficient” level of competency in problem solving, using a new scoring rubric. 81% of students performed at the “proficient” level in problem solving, exceeding our expectations.*) Do not include student-level data. Data included in this report should be in aggregate. Please include how Madrid courses/program were involved.

   The following outcomes were assessed this year:
   1. Students will understand the principles of physics and apply these principles to problems of fundamental and practical interest.
4. Students will communicate effectively and professionally in oral and written formats. Our goal was that the average level of achievement on each learning outcome is greater than or equal to 3 (meets expectations).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Level of Achievement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please attach any tables, graphics, or charts to the end of this report.

3. Describe how assessment feedback has been provided to students, faculty, and staff. *(e.g. report for faculty, executive summary for the dean, web page for students, alumni newsletter, discussion with students in class or club event, etc.)*

This report will be sent to the Associate Dean and will eventually be posted on the website [http://www.slu.edu/the-office-of-the-provost/assessment-of-student-learning/program-level-assessment/college-of-arts-and-sciences](http://www.slu.edu/the-office-of-the-provost/assessment-of-student-learning/program-level-assessment/college-of-arts-and-sciences)

where it can be viewed by faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

4. In what ways have you used assessment findings to celebrate student achievements and/or to improve the curriculum this past year? *(e.g. prizes to students, hosting student parties, changes to curriculum, student projects, learning goals, assessment strategies, etc.)*

We do not use assessment findings, which are aggregate scores, to celebrate achievements of individual students.

Any level of achievement below 3 meets expectations requires corrective action. Since both outcomes had levels of achievement exceeding 3, no corrective action was taken.

5. Describe any changes to your assessment plans, or any challenges or educational experiences with the assessment process this past year that you would like to share.

After reducing the total number of outcomes, we modified the three year plan for student outcomes assessed.
Please submit any revised/updated assessment plans to the University Assessment Coordinator along with this report.