Lincoln Memorial University
Assessment and Evaluation Policy

To promote continuous improvement and to meet the institutional effectiveness requirements of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), Lincoln Memorial University has two requirements for academic program evaluation and improvement. These requirements are the annual Outcomes Assessment Report, and periodic program review or program accreditation. Consistent with the SACSCOC definition, LMU defines an educational program as a coherent set of courses leading to a credential (degree, diploma, or certificate). These include certificates and associate, baccalaureate, masters, educational specialist, and doctorate degrees.

All academic programs, as well as administrative offices and academic and student support services offices, are expected to complete an annual assessment report, the Outcomes Assessment Report (OAR). The Outcomes Assessment Report for academic programs and academic and student support units includes both Student Learning Outcomes and Program Outcomes, along with measures and targets for each outcome. Administrative offices are only required to have administrative outcomes, along with measures and targets for each outcome. At the end of the academic year, programs report their findings and make recommendations for improvements in the coming year. Because certificates consist of courses selected from within an academic program, they are assessed within that program's Outcomes Assessment Report (OAR).

The Outcomes Assessment Reports are submitted to the Office of Institutional Effectiveness. The Office of Institutional Effectiveness provides feedback on the Outcomes Assessment Report to the program, and archives the Reports, so that they can be used as documentation in support of institutional effectiveness processes for accreditors.

All academic programs are required to go through either periodic program review or programmatic or specialized accreditation review. Programs that do not go through a specialized (or programmatic) accreditation process will go through a program review every three to five years. For programs that undergo programmatic accreditation, they should submit letters of notification to the Office of Institutional Effectiveness for archiving. The Office of Institutional Effectiveness will update the Accreditation, State Authorization and Program Review Schedule annually and share it with the Institutional Effectiveness Committee (IEC).

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