The Learning Outcomes Oversight Committee (LOOC) is committed to promoting, supporting, and ensuring effective assessment as an integral part of the student learning experience at the University of Rhode Island.

The charges to the committee (University Manual 5.84.10-5.84.12):

Learning Outcomes Oversight Committee (LOOC) shall create policies for URI student learning outcomes assessment, data distribution and frequency of measurement at the university-wide level, with the approval of the Faculty Senate and the Provost. Such policies would include but not be limited to external reporting and the release of assessment data, setting of standards for outcomes assessment, identification of strengths and limitations of existing assessment practices and recommendations for resource allocation to enhance assessment practices.

The committee shall provide advice and guidance to the Office of Student Learning, Outcomes Assessment, and Accreditation (SLOAA) relevant to faculty learning of best practices of student learning outcomes and assessment and oversee implementation and facilitation of approved policies by the Office of Student Learning, Outcomes Assessment and Accreditation.

The committee shall also develop an ongoing review of the learning outcomes assessment process, interpret external expectations for university-wide learning outcomes assessment, including those of accreditation bodies and facilitate internal communication across units regarding ways of meeting those expectations.

Membership:

As defined in the University Manual under section 5.84.13, the committee is representative of the entire University community. LOOC includes faculty members, representing all academic Colleges.

Activities of Spring/Summer 2011:

1) Letters sent by SLOAA in March 2011 to all Departments advising dates of 2011-2012 reporting of undergraduate student learning outcomes assessment:

   October 2011: All undergraduate programs not previously completing full cycle of assessment to provide completed report
   November 2011: All accredited undergraduate programs providing an update on activities related to learning outcomes assessment
   March 2012: All undergraduate programs previously completing a full cycle of assessment to report on a new learning outcome and provide update on prior activity.

2) SLOAA: Davis Educational Foundation Grant funding of 7 RFPs and other mini-grants for undergraduate student learning assessment were awarded with a total commitment of $11,415.

Academic Year 2011-2012:
1) Providing Input in Graduate Student Learning Outcomes Assessment: Through co-committee participation, Associate Dean Keith Killingbeck, Professors Lori Ciccomascolo and John Stevenson, and SLOAA Assistant Director Elaine Finan have kept LOOC informed throughout the year of progress of the Graduate Assessment Team, which has expanded its number of pilot programs moving towards completion of an assessment plan and initial reporting. The Team has created both a thesis/defense rubric, and a proposal rubric. The defense rubric was piloted in the spring, 2011 with revisions following. Both rubrics will be piloted again, spring 2012. John Stevenson was appointed summer 2011 as coordinator of graduate assessment and has worked closely with SLOAA and the graduate assessment team. As a group, LOOC members provide comment and constructive feedback throughout the year. A small group of LOOC members participated in the evaluation of graduate pilot programs’ assessment plans in spring 2012.

2) Undergraduate Program Assessment Report Evaluations: In a process led by Assistant Director Elaine Finan, the scheduled October/November undergraduate reports of students learning outcomes assessment continue to be evaluated by small groups of LOOC members. Similarly, the assessment report of the General Education Program was also evaluated. In early March 2012, a larger training session of LOOC members will take place to prepare for the evaluations needed for the expected March assessment reports.

3) Implementation of Policy for Undergraduate and Graduate Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Reporting

Background: For 2011-2012, LOOC had the goal of meeting NEASC standards for undergraduate program reporting by completing a third round of assessment for all programs. In addition, under its policy listed under 8.59.11 of the University Manual, LOOC needed to determine the appropriate timeframes/expectations for future learning outcomes assessment reporting. Additionally, consideration needed to be given to incorporating graduate programs into the process.

Principles:
1) Maintain the focus on improving student learning by assessing outcomes and re-evaluating when changes are made, allowing for continuous quality improvement;
2) Make reporting requirements reasonable for departments, especially those with large general education demands, and those housing undergraduate and graduate programs;
3) Allow time for graduate programs to successfully create a formal assessment plan prior to reporting.

Program Reporting Structure:
The following plan was developed, modified and approved by LOOC, SLOAA and the Graduate Assessment Team.
1) The program reporting cycle will be every two years for both undergraduate and graduate programs. Reports will be due in May by the date of graduation.
2) During each reporting cycle, programs evaluate at least one new outcome and will provide follow-up on prior assessment(s).
3) Report evaluations will be made by a subcommittee of LOOC and SLOAA in early summer, with Provost Office support and feedback to programs will be provided by SLOAA.
4) It is expected that most departments with both undergraduate and graduate programs will alternate years of reporting on the assessment of student learning outcomes.
5) As graduate programs begin this process, the first cycle will be used to create a formal assessment plan.
Schematic:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Formal Reports</th>
<th>Plan and report years due by May graduation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate program Assessment Plans</td>
<td>Pilot Group Plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment Reports</td>
<td>Full assessment cycle and follow-up report on previous assessments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All undergraduate programs reported during 2011 - 2012. Going forward they are separated into cohorts to stagger reporting rounds with graduate programs. This year, some programs reported on one assessment cycle, other programs also followed up on previous reports.

** From 2014 on, the graduate pilot programs (P) merge into the graduate cohort 1 (G1)

Note for example: An undergraduate program reporting in cohort U1, will have their associated graduate program reporting in cohort G2. Likewise, an undergraduate program reporting in cohort U2, will have their associated graduate program reporting in cohort G1. A department with only undergraduate or graduate programs will be in one of the cohorts and reporting every 2 years.

**LEGEND:**
P = Graduate pilot programs (7)
G1 = 1st cohort of grad programs to plan/report (TBD)
G2 = 2nd cohort of grad programs to plan/report (TBD)
U1 = 1st cohort of undergrad programs (TBD)
U2 = 2nd cohort of undergrad programs (TBD)