

AACP Excellence in Assessment Award

Abstract

California Northstate University College of Pharmacy (CNUCOP) has an inherent culture of assessment that has developed in part through the use of team-based learning (TBL) in every didactic course. This pedagogical delivery system embraces frequent and substantive evaluations of student learning and has inspired a considerable assessment effort at all levels of the institution, from the classroom, to experiential education, and finally, to the evaluation of our mission.

In recent years, it has become increasingly evident that accurate assessment of student learning and continuous feedback for both educators and their students is an indispensable tool for enhancing the experience of teaching and learning. At California Northstate University College of Pharmacy (CNUCOP), effective assessment of learning outcomes is integral to provide evidence of learning, improve curricular design, provide students with information on their strengths and weaknesses, and ultimately increase the effectiveness of the pharmacy program. For each individual course, Student learning outcomes (SLOs) are created that reflect what instructors expect students to be able to demonstrate. Summative evaluations of student learning, including but not limited to, exam questions, projects and OSCEs, are mapped to the appropriate SLOs. Each SLO is then assessed with a 4-tier rubric that provides descriptive feedback about student learning. Results of student learning are compiled in the Student Learning Assessment Dashboard which is shared with key stakeholders. These assessments not only provide feedback to students about their individual performance, but also offer a snapshot of the performance of the entire class, allowing continuous improvements to course and program delivery and to student learning. Results of student learning feed into the assessment of the pharmacy program, which ultimately assists in the evaluation and attempts to ensure achievement of CNUCOPs mission.