

STEP I: Preparing to Assess

Course: Intermediate Algebra (Math 080)

Semester: Fall 2009 SLO

being assessed:

A portion of SLO #2, which states that "the student will be able to evaluate and perform algebraic operations on ...rational...expressions" will be assessed.

Planned process of assessment:

Four questions from the multiple-choice part of the final exam will be scored for a sample of students who take the final exam.

Each student will receive a score of 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4 corresponding to the number of problems from the above list that are answered correctly. The percent of students receiving each score will be calculated.

Criteria--How well must a student perform to be considered successful? Is there a rubric?

A student scoring 3 or 4 will be considered successful. The questions were multiple choice, so there is no rubric.

What percent of students should be successful for the department to consider the SLO as being met? (100% is of course ideal, but not likely)

Seventy-five percent

Expectation how well are you expecting students to perform?

Unknown, but I am expecting at least 60% of the students to be successful, based on previous assessments of other SLOs.

STEP 2: Analyzing Data

(Attach spreadsheet, etc) See last page attachment for breakdown of scores.

Number of students evaluated: 283 students were evaluated.

What percent is this of the total students still enrolled in the course?

The data evaluated represented about 69.2% of the total enrolled (409) as of the last withdrawal date.

Total number of sections of the course: 17

Number of sections that were involved in the assessment: 13 If

some sections were not involved, explain.

I requested copies of the student exams from all instructors teaching the course, but I did not get a response from instructors in 3 of the 17 sections. The remaining untested section was an 8-week class and those students took a final exam (after the first 8 weeks of the semester) that was not exactly the same as the exam taken by students enrolled in the 16-week sections.

What percent of students were successful according to your earlier criteria?

Approximately 56.9% (161 students out of 283) of the students were successful.

Is this an acceptable result? No.

How does this compare with your expectations? These results are not totally unexpected. Did

you notice any particular problem areas?

What changes, if any, need to be made in curriculum, textbook, auxiliary material, teaching approaches, etc?

Department discussions and "brainstorming" sessions about ways to improve instruction are ongoing. I would like to see more interaction in this area between full and part-time instructors, but logistically, this has been difficult. We offer at least one hybrid (part online and part in-class) section of the course each semester, giving students more flexibility in choosing a method of instruction to best fit their needs. Students should continue to be encouraged to see their instructors during office hours and to use the Math Study Hall (this will be required in the near future for all Math 080 students).

Does the SLO accurately reflect what we want students to know or should we revise it? The SLO accurately reflects what we want students to know.

Evaluate the assessment process: (Was it informative? Was it efficient? Can you think of alternate methods of assessment?)

The process was efficient because multiple-choice exam questions were used for the assessment, and that made for uniformity in obtaining results. In the future, I would like some of an assessment to involve open-response questions, where a student's methodology in solving an algebra problem, as well as the student's final "answer" to a problem, can be examined. The number of students being assessed in this way would have to be much less than the number assessed during fall of 2009 because of the time required completing such a process. A representative number of exams would have to carefully be selected. Once again, the question about intercepts would probably be assessed more accurately if it were an open-response question rather than a multiple-choice question.

ATTACHMENT:

Math 080 Assessment Report for FALL 2009

Background:

A portion of SLO #2, which states that "the student will be able to evaluate and perform algebraic operations on ...rational...expressions" was assessed by grading four questions on the multiple-choice part of the final exam. Students who correctly answered 3 or 4 questions were classified as having met the SLO. The goal was to grade all tests given during the spring 2009 semester, but exams for 4 out of 17 sections of Math 080 were not available, so exams from 13 sections were graded.

The Results:

Of the 283 students whose exams were graded, 161 students, or 56.9%, correctly answered 3 or 4 questions. Here is the breakdown:

Number of Questions Correct	Number of Students	Percent of Sample
0	10	3.5%
1	37	13.1%
2	75	26.5%
3	94	33.2%
4	67	23.7%