

Student Affairs Assessment Overview



Student Affairs Assessment

Student Affairs is dedicated to supporting a culture of evidence-based decision-making and assessment at UAA. The Office of Student Affairs (OSA) provides consultative support for Student Affairs assessment projects and data needs and supports program level assessment accountability. OSA provides assistance with departmental and divisional assessment efforts to strengthen student learning, development and success through organized research and assessment initiatives and the mining and analysis of institutional and student performance data.

This document serves as an overview of Student Affairs assessment practices, framework, and foundation. More information about Student Affairs assessment processes and reports can be found at uaa.alaska.edu/students/assessment.

Student Affairs End of Year Report

The Student Affairs End of Year Report informs the UAA community and other stakeholders of the annual contributions of UAA Student Affairs programs and departments. This publication highlights SA's mission and purpose, core functions and signature programs, significant facts and figures related to programmatic outcomes, and contributions toward UAA 2020 goals.

Annual Assessment

Student Affairs demonstrates a commitment to a culture of evidence and continuous improvement through intentional assessment planning, the measurement of learning outcomes, and the publication of insightful key findings to stakeholders in the Annual Assessment Report. Organized by department, the Annual Assessment Report provides an inventory of annual assessment projects and metrics, evidence of use of data for continuous improvement, and key findings for assessment activities and learning outcomes.

Each student affairs department is responsible for maintaining individual programmatic assessment plans and accountability for data collection.

SA Key Indicators and Data Points

Student Affairs maintains and monitors a set of key indicators and data points to illustrate SA mission and core theme fulfillment, contributions to UAA Core Theme indicators, program performance and outcomes. This interactive online dashboard can be found at studentaffairs.uaa.alaska.edu/shiny/kpis.

Student Learning Frameworks

Student Affairs Student Outcomes (SASOs) and Student Affairs Student Employee Outcomes (SELOs) Frameworks ensure Student Affairs efforts are intentional, outcomes focused, and grounded in student learning. The two frameworks are rooted in the learning and development outcomes identified by the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS), Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP) essential learning outcomes by the Associate of American Colleges & Universities (AAC&U), and attributes valued most by employers from the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE).

Student Affairs Student Outcomes

Student Affairs Student Outcomes (SASOs) serve as a framework for SA to align engagement activities and services to student learning and development outcomes that complement the UAA general education requirement (GER) student learning outcomes.



SASOs provide a guide and common language in creating meaningful interactions with students and building connections between learning and growth occurring throughout their academic coursework, career preparation, outside-the-classroom activities, and daily life.

As part of the Annual Assessment Report, SA departments are asked to identify two learning outcomes in alignment with this framework that their area emphasizes and measures each year. The Student Affairs Student Outcomes framework prioritizes four learning domains:

- Sense of self
- Balanced life choices
- Global citizenship
- Creative application

Alaska PEAK

Alaska PEAK (Purposeful Engagement, Assessing Knowledge) is a learning outcomes framework for the on-campus student employment experience that leverages reflective learning and relationship building between student employees and their supervisors.

Alaska PEAK was first established in 2015 by the Student Affairs Assessment Team (A-Team) as an initiative to evaluate and assess the on-campus student employment experience. The program has since evolved into much more, elevating on-campus student employment as an intentional and high-impact practice that enhances students' personal development, professional growth, and academic success. Alaska PEAK at its core, uses brief, structured conversations between student employees and their supervisors to support students to reflect and connect learning from their diverse campus experiences.

The Student Employee Learning Outcomes (SELO) are used by supervisors as a guide to support the development of individual student employees. As a result of on-campus student employment at UAA, students will have the opportunity to develop these foundational career competencies:

- Leadership
- Oral & Written Communication
- Professionalism & Work Ethic
- Teamwork & Collaboration
- Information Technology Application
- Critical Thinking & Problem Solving
- Global & Intercultural Fluency
- Career Management

Assessment Foundation

Student Affairs has been actively developing a culture of evidence since 2010. The creation of a strategic planning and development process, establishment of a Student Affairs assessment team, and the division-wide administration of program reviews comprise this assessment foundation.

Organizational Development Process FY11-FY15

Strategic planning and assessment guided the Student Affairs organization development process. This five-year process focused on establishing the assessment mindset (FY11), creating a foundation (FY12), building capacity (FY13), conducting assessment (FY14), and ensuring alignment (FY15). This foundation propelled Student Affairs forward with a sustainable assessment culture.

Assessment Team (A-Team)

The Student Affairs Assessment Team (A-Team) was appointed as a key driver to promote a culture of evidence and support quality assessment activities for the improvement of programs and services across Student Affairs. The A-Team coordinated the identification and measurement of student learning outcomes, key performance indicators, and data points; and served as an advisory group to the SA Executive Team in supporting strategic planning, university prioritization, and assessment of core themes and priorities. The A-Team was put on pause in 2016 due to shifting campus priorities and capacity demands.

CAS Self-Studies

The Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS) Self Study is a national standard of practice assessment. CAS Self-Studies allow student affairs functional areas a program review model to conduct analyses and ensure outcomes are of high quality and aligned with stated mission, student needs and national peers. In FY12, staff and faculty reviewers conducted a large scale Student Affairs-wide CAS Self-Study of 20 student affairs programs. This effort has proved to be impactful as it has provided a platform for departments to systematically evaluate and explore their strengths and opportunities, and priorities to guide program improvement.