

Issue 4

December 5, 2013

# Descriptives

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*WesternU's Institutional Research & Effectiveness Newsletter*

## Focus on Assessment & WesternU's 8 Institutional Learning Outcomes

Dear WesternU Community:

In 2007, WesternU faculty, staff, and administrators developed and adopted 8 Institutional Learning Outcomes—these outcomes were relevant to each program. To help make informed decisions, panel members reviewed literature on health professions learning outcomes. The rationale was that shared learning outcomes would be the basis of our foundation as a graduate health professions institution. Our role in the assessment of these outcomes is to develop a sustainable and applicable assessment strategy for all programs through methodological and statistical support, assessment organizational support and direct assessment feedback.

We hope you will find this issue informative & helpful. Please let us know if you have questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Juan Ramirez, Ph.D.

Director of Institutional Research & Effectiveness

## Assessment & Program Review Committee Kick Off Meetings!

The meetings—hosted by IRE—will be held today 12/5 and Tuesday, 12/11. The focus of the 2013-14 ILO assessment cycle will be on Critical Thinking and Collaboration Skills.

## Wrapping up the 2012-2013 WesternU ILO Assessment Cycle!

The first year of the assessment cycle is complete! All WesternU programs have submitted their assessment reports on Evidence Based Practice and Interpersonal Communication Skills (see pg. 2 for examples). The results will help us gather evidence that demonstrates our students strengths & areas of improvement which helps us make changes to ensure our institutional learning outcomes are being met.

We would like to thank all of the individuals and programs that participated in the assessment and program review process. **We would especially like to highlight the programs that scored above the WesternU average for assessment on the 2013 reports: COMP, CPT, CVM, DMD, DPT, PA, & PharmD.**

For more information, please go to:

<http://www.westernu.edu/ire/ire-assessment/ire-assessment-home/>

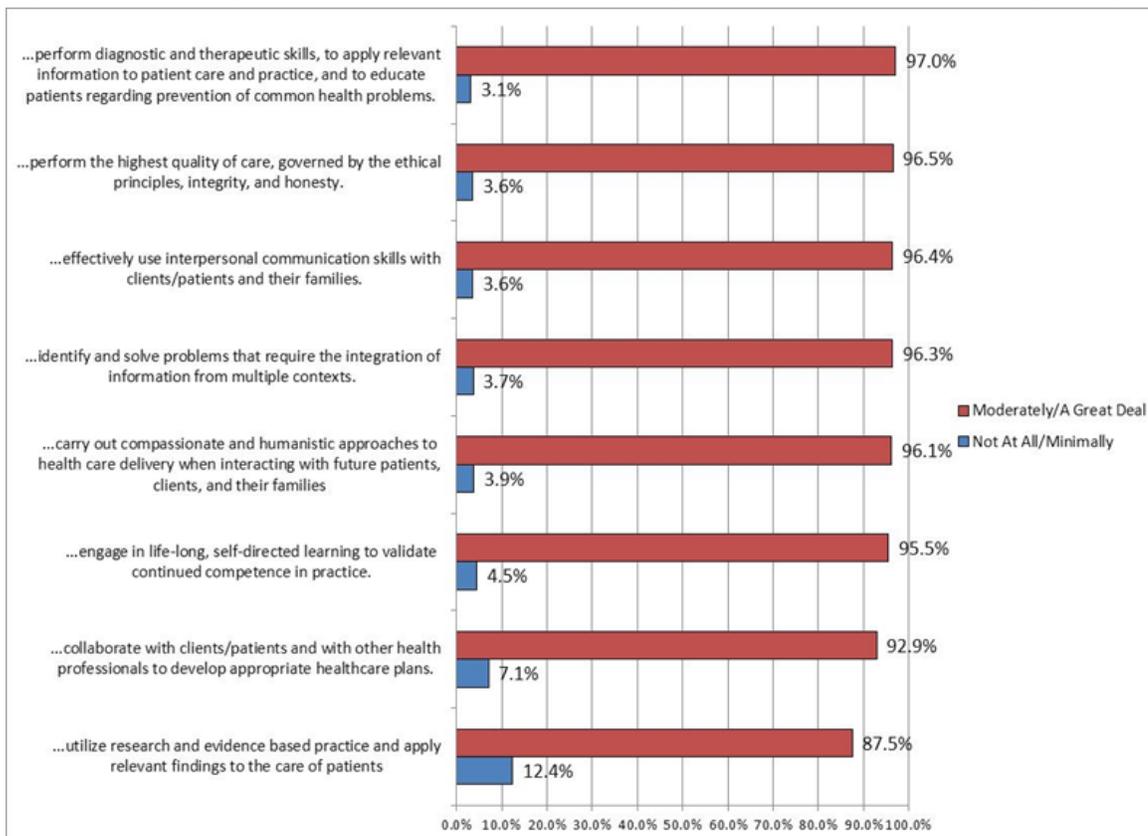
## WesternU's 8 Institutional Learning Outcome Domains

1. **Critical Thinking**— Example: The graduate should be able to identify and solve problems that require the integration of multiple contexts when applying patient care.
2. **Breadth and Depth of Knowledge in the Discipline/Clinical Competence**—Example: The graduate should be able to perform diagnostic therapeutic skills, to apply relevant information to patient care and practice, and to educate patients regarding prevention of common health problems.
3. **Interpersonal Communication Skills**—Example: The graduate should be able to effectively use interpersonal skills that enable them to establish and maintain therapeutic relationships with patients and other members of the health care team.
4. **Collaboration Skills**—Example: The graduate should be able to collaborate with clients and with other health professionals to develop a plan of care to achieve positive health outcomes for our patients.
5. **Ethical and Moral Decision Making Skills**—Example: The graduate should be able to perform the highest quality of care, governed by the ethical principles, integrity, honesty and compassion.
6. **Life-long Learning Skills**—Example: The graduate should be able to engage in life-long, self-directed learning to validate continued competence in practice.
7. **Evidence Based Practice**—Example: The graduate should be able to utilize research and evidence based practice and apply relevant findings to the care of patients.
8. **Humanistic Practice**—Example: The graduate should be able to carry out compassionate and humanistic approaches to health care delivery when interacting with patients, clients, and their families, and unfailingly advocate for patient needs.

(Source: <http://dashboard.westernu.edu/oir-charts/index.php?chart=oir-student-learning-outcome-domains>)

## WesternU Graduating Student Survey 2013: Learning Outcomes Chart

### My educational experiences as a WesternU student helped me become confident in my ability to...



## Want to know more about the WesternU ILO assessment cycle?

The process was developed through WASC training and conferences. It is effective and sustainable. The assessment of WesternU's ILO's occurs on a four-year cycle and has 3 main attributes:

1. Programs submit an assessment report on two outcomes per year.
2. Direct assessment evidence should come from summative/signature assignments, which are comprehensive and representative instances of student work related to at least one ILO.
3. Programs will operationalize assessments using program learning outcomes.

For more information, please go to:

<http://www.westernu.edu/ire/ire-assessment/ire-assessment-plan/>

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## Professional Accreditation Updates

- Congratulations to the College of Optometry for being granted professional accreditation for 8 years, through February 2021!

For more information please go to:

<http://www.westernu.edu/ire/ire-accreditation/ire-accreditation-documents/>

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## IRE Survey Request Form

Did you know that we have an online survey request form? If you need assistance with a survey, data analysis or anything else please request our services here: [IRE Survey Requests](#)

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## Assessment & Institutional Learning Outcomes Quiz!

1. How many ILO's does WesternU have?  
A. 12  
B. 6  
C. 8  
D. 1
2. Which of the following is not a WesternU ILO?  
A. Evidence-based practice  
B. Institutional Effectiveness  
C. Critical Thinking  
D. Humanistic Practice
3. How many years are in the WesternU ILO assessment cycle?  
A. Four  
B. Two  
C. Eight  
D. Too many
4. True or False: Summative/Signature assignments should be comprehensive and representative of at least one ILO.
5. Who is the chair of the Assessment & Program Review Committee? Go to: <http://www.westernu.edu/ire/ire-assessment/ire-assessment-home/>  
A. Neil Patel, PhD  
B. Alyssa De Santiago, MPH CHES  
C. Mickey Mouse  
D. Juan Ramirez, PhD

*Western University of Health Sciences*

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Descriptives is a publication of The Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness at Western University of Health Sciences, Pomona, CA.

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For more information, go to:

<http://www.westernu.edu/oir-welcome>

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