

# TracDat Faculty User Manual

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Version 5.0.43 2015

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## Introduction

The PC outcomes database, TracDat, is designed to assist the College with the implementation of Student Learning Outcomes. TracDat stores and organizes outcomes, assessment plans, assessment results, action plans, and other data related to SLOs. In addition, a reporting component provides various summaries of the data that have been entered, including curriculum mapping, an essential component of an SLO assessment plan. This TracDat User Manual has been written for the faculty at Palomar College to provide an introduction to and assistance with this specially-designed software. The various features of the database have been customized for our specific use.

## Logging into TracDat


You can find convenient links to the Palomar Outcomes Database in these places:

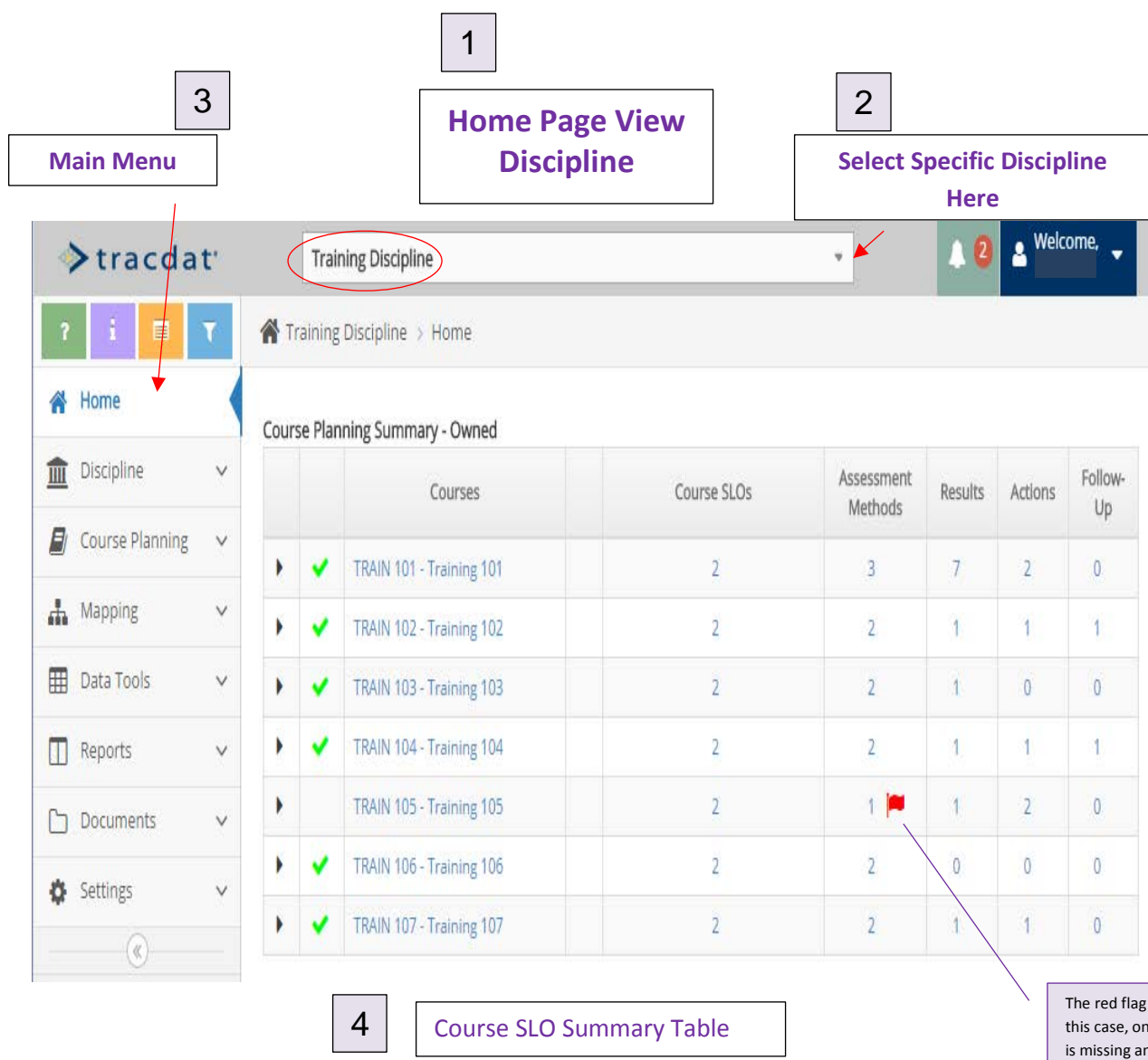
- The Faculty & Staff [web page](#) (scroll down to Faculty Resources)
- The TracDat [web page](#)

The actual URL for the program is <https://outcomes.palomar.edu:8443/tracdat/>. Use your college email login (first initial + last name) and password to access your data. DO NOT USE the e-services password. The best browsers to use are: Firefox, Internet Explorer 10 or later, or Chrome, latest version.

## Basic Navigation of TracDat v.5.0.43

### Disciplines/Courses: Home Page Summary

- 1 The Home Page view shows how many course SLOs are entered into the database, SLO assessment plans, and results, action plans, and follow-up. A green check indicates a complete assessment plan.  A red flag indicates something missing. Roll the mouse over the red flag for detailed information.
- 2 Disciplines and programs are in separate units. Access them by clicking on the dropdown menu. The name of the discipline or program will appear in the field at the top.
- 3 The Main Menu allows you to access to the pathways for entering, editing, and reviewing information.
- 4 To quickly view SLO assessment plans, click on any of the links within the Course SLO Summary Table.




**1** Home Page View Discipline

**2** Select Specific Discipline Here




**3** Main Menu

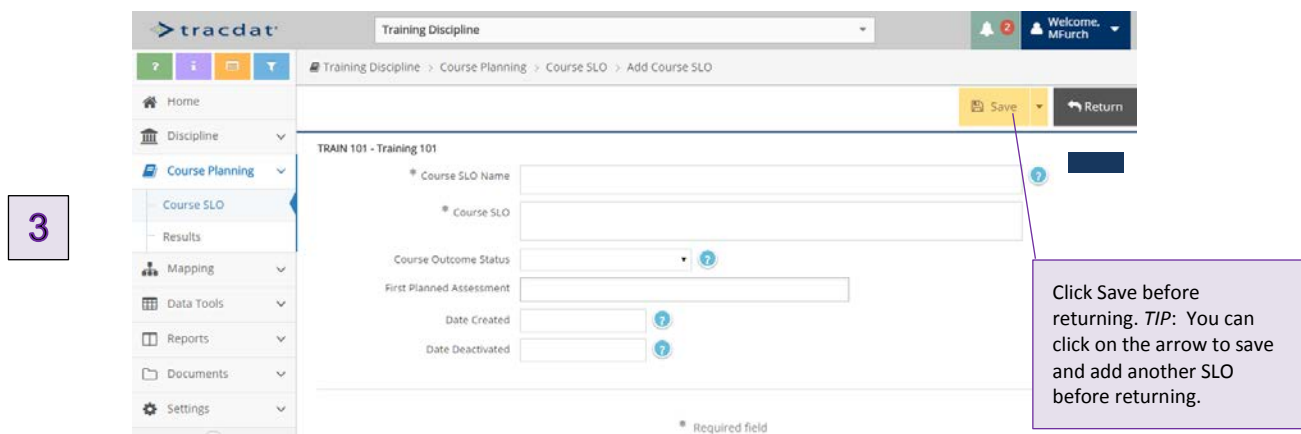
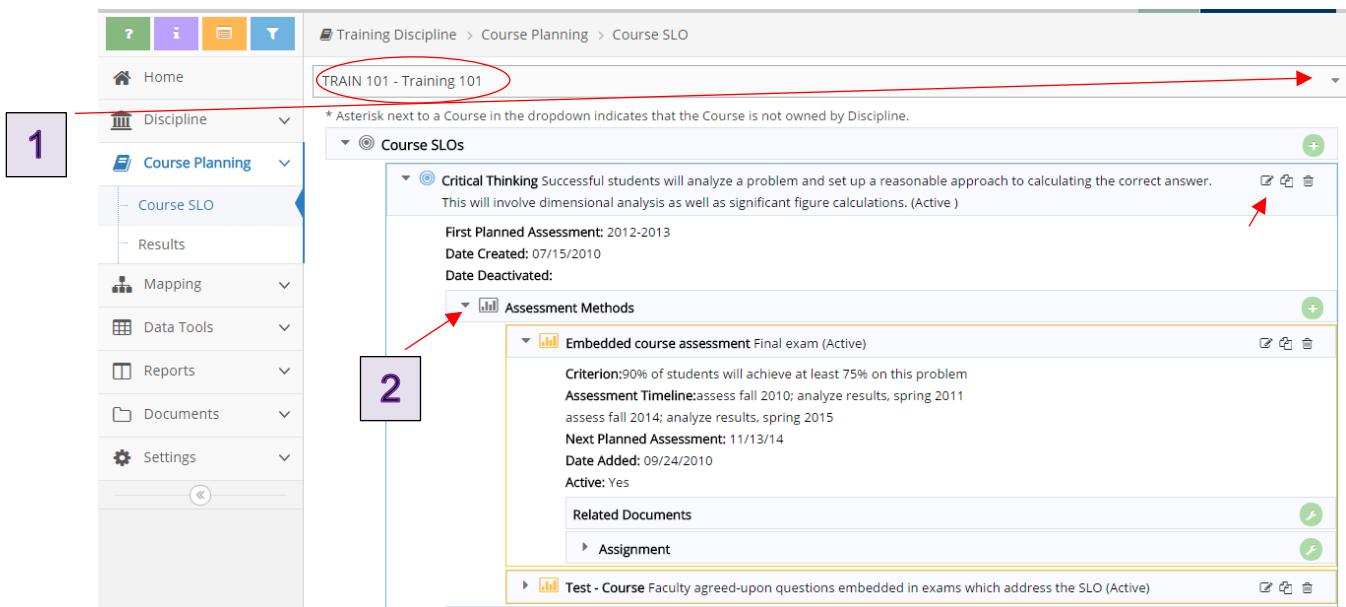
**4** Course SLO Summary Table

The red flag indicates, In this case, one of the SLOs is missing an assessment.

	Courses	Course SLOs	Assessment Methods	Results	Actions	Follow-Up
▶	✓ TRAIN 101 - Training 101	2	3	7	2	0
▶	✓ TRAIN 102 - Training 102	2	2	1	1	1
▶	✓ TRAIN 103 - Training 103	2	2	1	0	0
▶	✓ TRAIN 104 - Training 104	2	2	1	1	1
▶	TRAIN 105 - Training 105	2	1 	1	2	0
▶	✓ TRAIN 106 - Training 106	2	2	0	0	0
▶	✓ TRAIN 107 - Training 107	2	2	1	1	0

## Courses: Adding, Reviewing, & Editing SLO Plans


- 1 Click on Course Planning to access Course SLOs, assessment plans, and results. Course SLO plans are listed by course, selected at the top of the page. Change to other courses by clicking on the drop-down menu.
- 2 Course SLOs are listed by SLO name. Click on the drop-down arrow to view assessment plans, including assessment methods, timelines, and any assignments. Click on the green circle  to add an SLO or to add any elements to the assessment plan. Select the edit icon to the right  to edit existing elements.
- 3 Add the information for a new course SLO. Use the information icons  for more details on the fields. Click Save before leaving the page.



## Mapping Course SLOs to GE/Institutional Outcomes

All course SLOs need to align or *map* to Palomar College's GE/Institutional Outcomes. For a complete list of the outcomes with examples, click [here](#). The faculty can map to the GE/ILOs from the course SLO menu, or they can map from the mapping menu on the left.

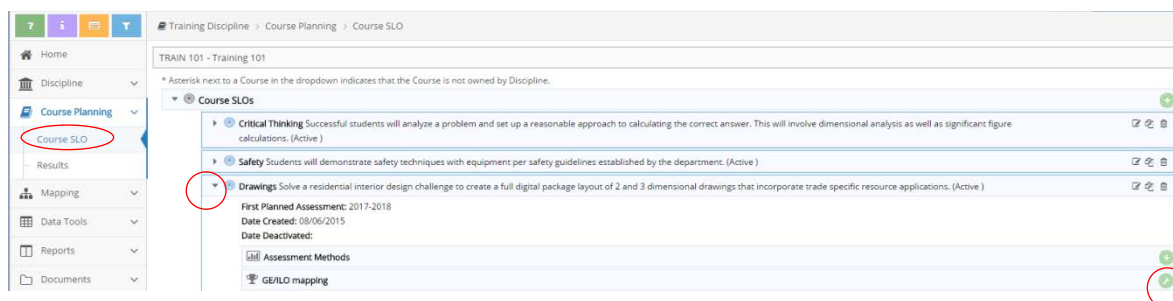
1

From the Course Planning menu, select the course SLO, click on the arrow to the left, and move down to GE/ILO mapping. Click on the green tool icon  to access the next screen.

2

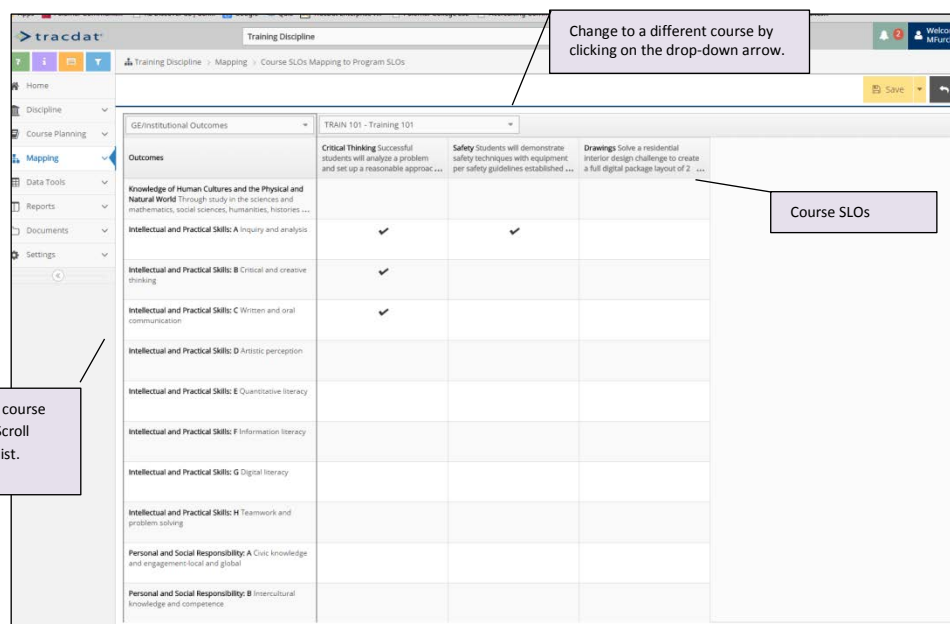
Select the GE/ILO outcomes that the course SLO is assessing.

1



The screenshot shows the 'Course SLOs' section for 'TRAIN 101 - Training 101'. The 'GE/ILO mapping' option is highlighted at the bottom of the list. A green tool icon is circled in red. A red circle also highlights the left-pointing arrow next to the 'Drawings' SLO.

2



The screenshot shows the 'Mapping' interface. The 'GE/Institutional Outcomes' list is on the left, and the 'Course SLOs' list is on the right. A callout box points to the 'GE/Institutional Outcomes' list, and another callout box points to the 'Course SLOs' list. A callout box also points to the 'Change to a different course by clicking on the drop-down arrow.' button.

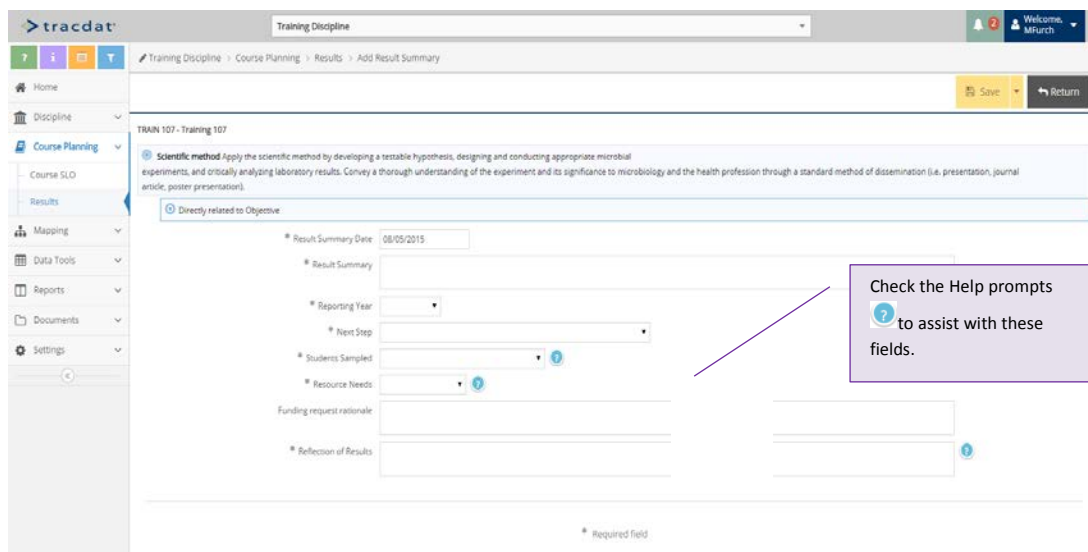
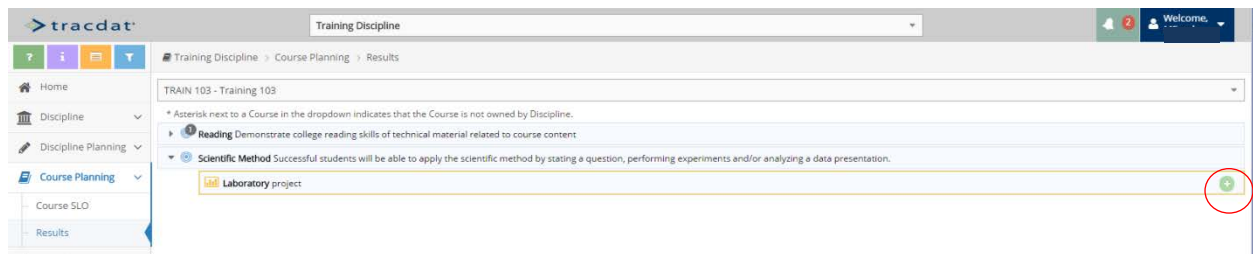
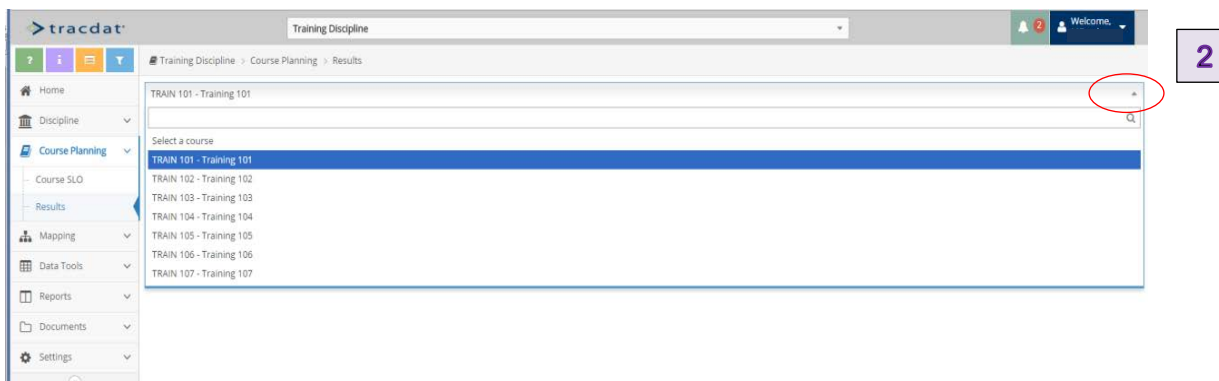
Outcomes	Critical Thinking Successful students will analyze a problem and set up a reasonable approach...	Safety Students will demonstrate safety techniques with equipment per safety guidelines established ...	Drawings Solve a residential interior design challenge to create a full digital package layout of 2 ...
Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World Through study in the sciences and mathematics, social sciences, humanities, histories ...			
Intellectual and Practical Skills: A Inquiry and analysis ...	✓	✓	
Intellectual and Practical Skills: B Critical and creative thinking	✓		
Intellectual and Practical Skills: C Written and oral communication	✓		
Intellectual and Practical Skills: D Artistic perception			
Intellectual and Practical Skills: E Quantitative literacy			
Intellectual and Practical Skills: F Information literacy			
Intellectual and Practical Skills: G Digital literacy			
Intellectual and Practical Skills: H Teamwork and problem solving			
Personal and Social Responsibility: A Civic knowledge and engagement local and global			
Personal and Social Responsibility: B Intercultural knowledge and competence			

Select the GE/ILOs that the course SLO is actually assessing. Scroll down to see the complete list.

TIP: There are rubrics already developed for some of the GE/ILO outcomes. Check in the Documents section of TracDat to review those.

## Courses: Adding Assessment Results

- 1 Select *Course Planning*, then *Results*.
- 2 Choose the course from the drop-down menu.
- 3 Click on the green circle **+** to add a result.
- 4 Enter the assessment results into the prompt fields. Click *Save* before returning.



## Courses: Adding Action Plans

Action plans are needed to complete an assessment cycle. An action plan might involve a curriculum change, an instructional modification, or any other related actions to support the success of the student learning.

- 1 Confirm assessment results have already been entered.
- 2 Click on Course Planning followed by Results. Click on the desired course link.
- 3 Click on the drop-down menus for the course SLO and the assessment method. Then click on the green circle **+** to add an action.
- 4 View the current SLO plan with result. Add the action plan in the required space.


The screenshot displays the Tracdat interface for 'Training Discipline'. The main content area shows a 'Course Planning Summary - Owned' table with columns for Courses, Course SLOs, Assessment Methods, Results, Actions, and Follow-Up. A red circle highlights the 'Results' column header, with a callout '1'. The left navigation menu has 'Results' circled in red, with a callout '2'. Below the table, the 'Results' view for 'TRAIN 102 - Training 102' is shown. A specific SLO is selected: 'Democracy Students will understand the role news organizations play in our democracy'. An assessment method is chosen: 'Question(s) embedded within test/assignment'. A green '+' button is circled in red, with a callout '3'. At the bottom, the 'Add Action' form is visible, with the 'Save' button circled in red and a callout '4'. A text box on the right says 'Click Save before returning.'

Courses	Course SLOs	Assessment Methods	Results	Actions	Follow-Up
▶ TRAIN 101 - Training 101	4	3	7	1	0
▶ ✓ TRAIN 102 - Training 102	2	2	1	1	1
▶ TRAIN 103 - Training 103	2	2	1	0	0
▶ ✓ TRAIN 104 - Training 104	2	2	1	1	1
▶ TRAIN 105 - Training 105	2	1	1	2	0
▶ ✓ TRAIN 106 - Training 106	2	2	0	0	0
▶ ✓ TRAIN 107 - Training 107	2	2	1	1	0

For assistance, contact LearningOutcomesHelp@palomar.edu



## Programs: Home Page Summary

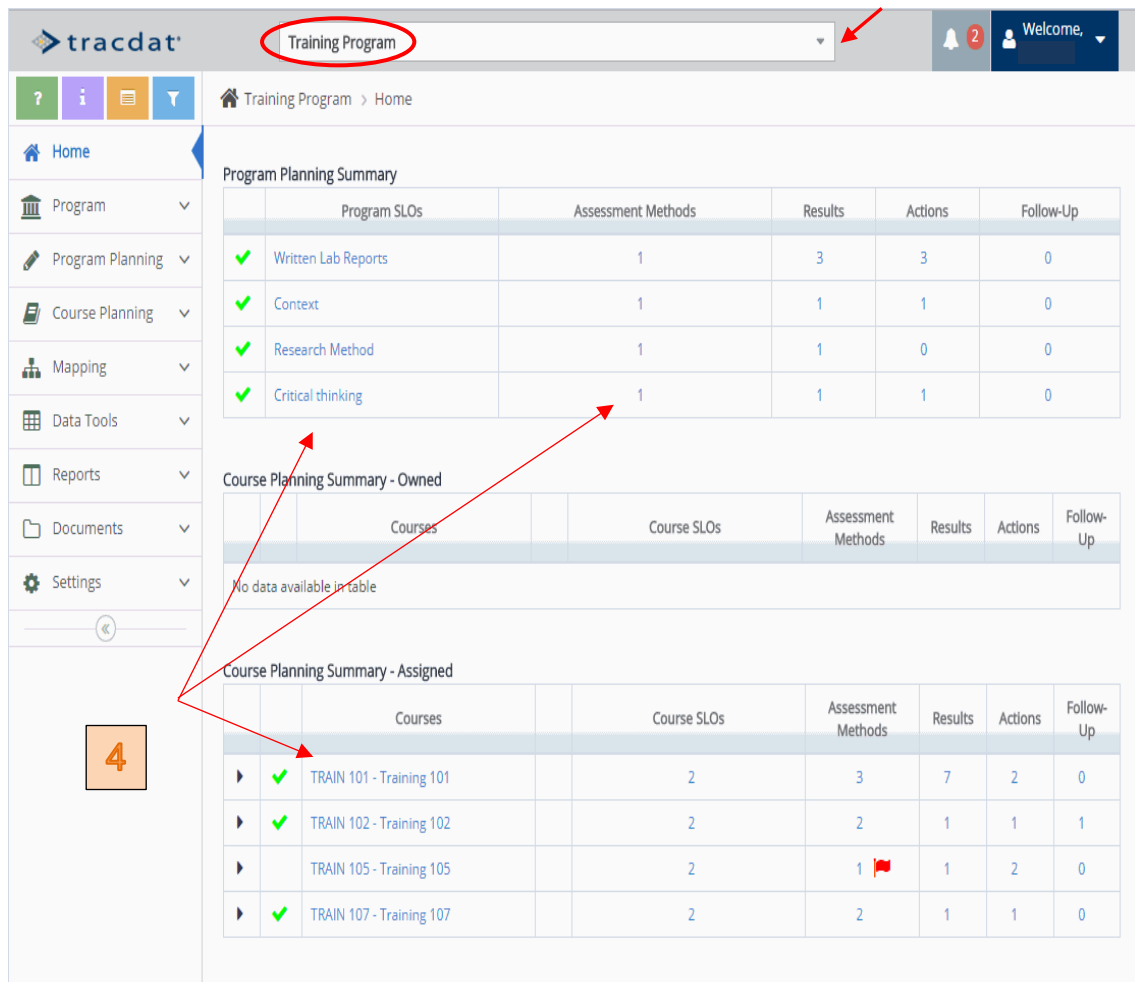
- 1 The Home Page quickly summarizes the required data for Program SLOs, including assessment methods, results, and actions. It also allows the viewer to see any follow-up activities that have been entered.
- 2 To change from one program to another, click on the drop-down menu.
- 3 The program view can access program planning. Course Planning allows you to complete curriculum mapping. Note that course SLOs can only be edited in the Discipline view. Click on the drop-down menu at the top to change to the discipline view.
- 4 Click on any of the links to view a current SLO, assessment method, result, action, or follow up. A green check indicates the assessment plan is complete. A red flag  indicates a missing element. Roll the mouse over the flag for detailed information.

1 **Program Home Page View**

2 **Select the Specific Program**

3

4



The screenshot shows the Tracdat interface for a 'Training Program'. At the top, a dropdown menu is set to 'Training Program' (callout 2). A navigation sidebar on the left includes 'Home', 'Program', 'Program Planning', 'Course Planning', 'Mapping', 'Data Tools', 'Reports', 'Documents', and 'Settings' (callout 3). The main content area features three summary tables:

- Program Planning Summary:** A table with columns for Program SLOs, Assessment Methods, Results, Actions, and Follow-Up. It lists four SLOs: 'Written Lab Reports', 'Context', 'Research Method', and 'Critical thinking', each with a green checkmark.
- Course Planning Summary - Owned:** A table with columns for Courses, Course SLOs, Assessment Methods, Results, Actions, and Follow-Up. It contains the text 'No data available in table'.
- Course Planning Summary - Assigned:** A table with columns for Courses, Course SLOs, Assessment Methods, Results, Actions, and Follow-Up. It lists four courses: 'TRAIN 101 - Training 101', 'TRAIN 102 - Training 102', 'TRAIN 105 - Training 105', and 'TRAIN 107 - Training 107'. The 'TRAIN 105' row has a red flag icon next to its 'Assessment Methods' value (callout 4).

## Programs: Add a Program Mission Statement


Any set of courses leading to a certificate or degree defines a “program.” Program Student Learning Outcomes are identified separately from course SLOs. Program SLOs can be assessed via course SLOs that capture the essence of the particular program. By assessing the course SLO, the program SLO is also assessed. Program SLOs can also be assessed separately from the course SLOs, such as a licensing test or portfolio assessment. The faculty in a department or discipline decide on this together. See Appendix B, [Types of Assessment](#) for information and resources.

A mission statement explains what the program goal or goals are in a sentence or two. A mission statement encapsulates the direction or purpose of the program.

1

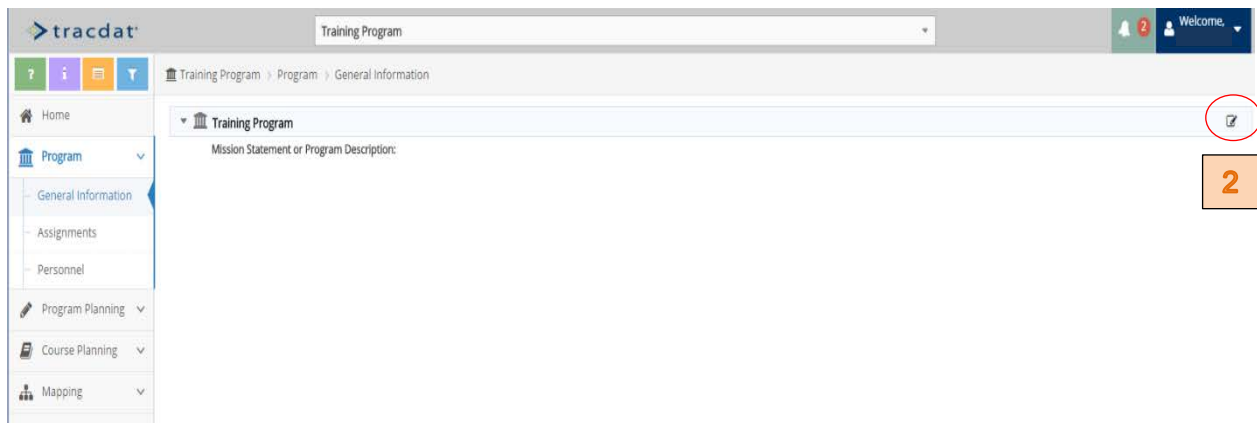
Make sure the program unit is selected at the top. Click on *Program* followed by *General Information*.

2

Click on the edit information icon  to the right.

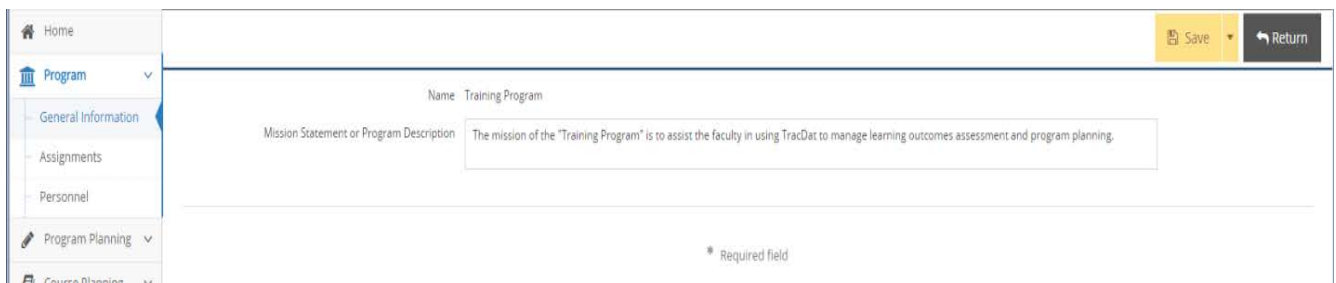
3

Type in the program’s mission statement. Click *Save* before returning.



1

2





Save Return

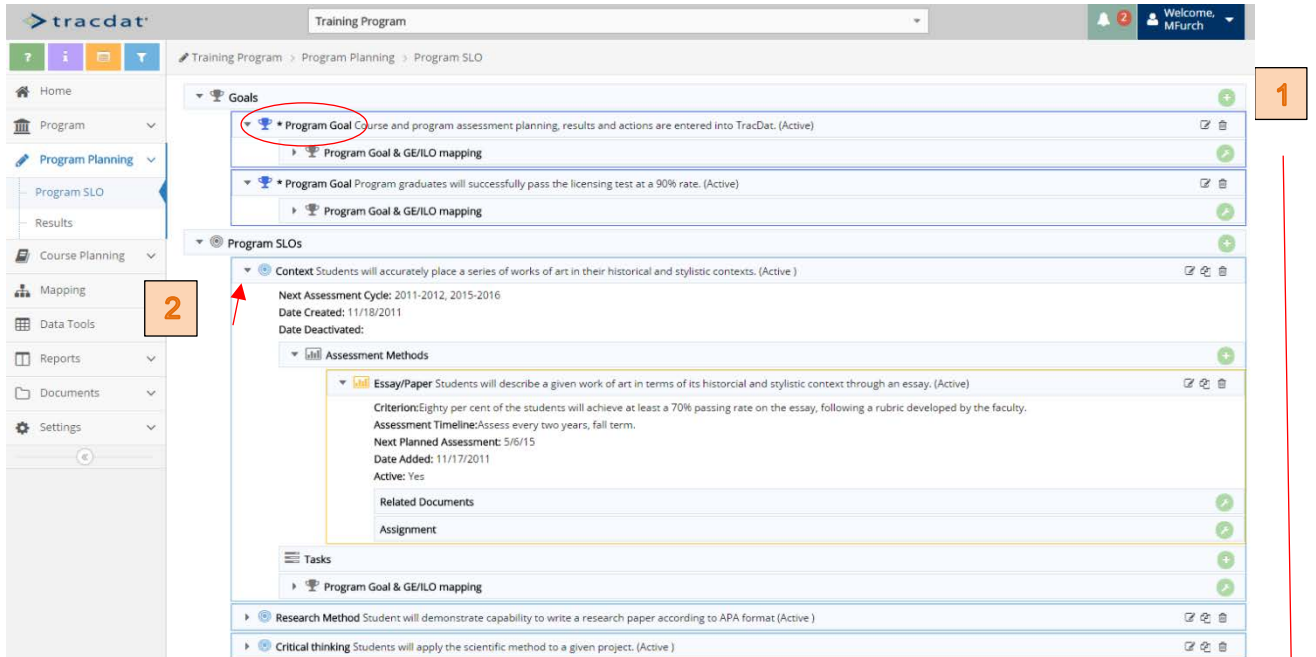
Name: Training Program

Mission Statement or Program Description: The mission of the "Training Program" is to assist the faculty in using TracDat to manage learning outcomes assessment and program planning.

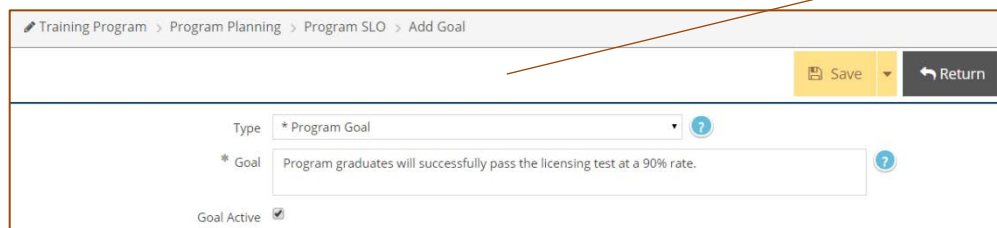
\* Required field

## Programs: Adding, Reviewing, & Editing Program Goals & SLOs

- 1 Program Goals: Add any program goals here. Click on the green circle  to access the fields.
- 2 Program assessment plans are listed. Click on the drop-down arrows to review the P SLOs, assessment timelines, assessment methods, and more.
- 3 Add a new Program SLO by clicking on the green circle  to access the appropriate fields.



The screenshot shows the TracDat interface for a Training Program. The left sidebar contains navigation options like Home, Program, Program Planning, Program SLO, Results, Course Planning, Mapping, Data Tools, Reports, Documents, and Settings. The main content area is titled 'Program SLOs' and lists several entries. One entry, 'Program Goal', is circled in red, and a green plus icon next to it is also circled in red. A red arrow points from this icon to a callout box on the right that says 'Program goals are useful for Program Review planning.' Another red arrow points from a 'Context' SLO entry to another callout box on the right that says 'Program SLOs are useful for Program Review planning.'

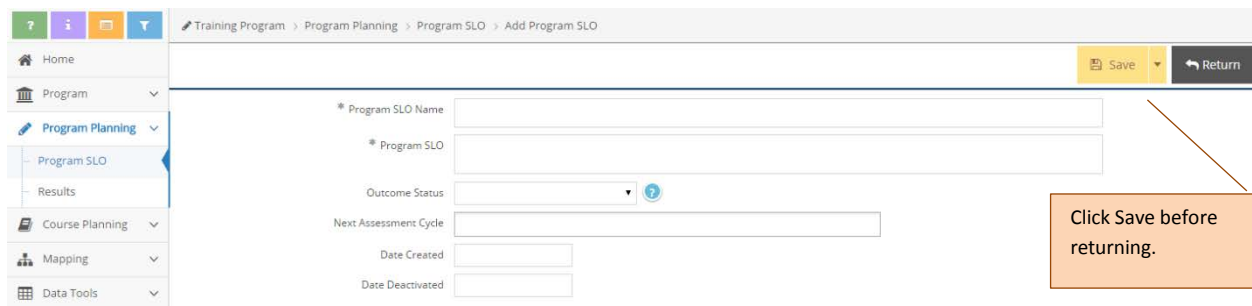


This is a screenshot of the 'Add Goal' form. It includes a breadcrumb trail: 'Training Program > Program Planning > Program SLO > Add Goal'. At the top right are 'Save' and 'Return' buttons. The form contains the following fields:
 

- Type: \* Program Goal
- \* Goal: Program graduates will successfully pass the licensing test at a 90% rate.
- Goal Active:

Program goals are useful for Program Review planning.

3




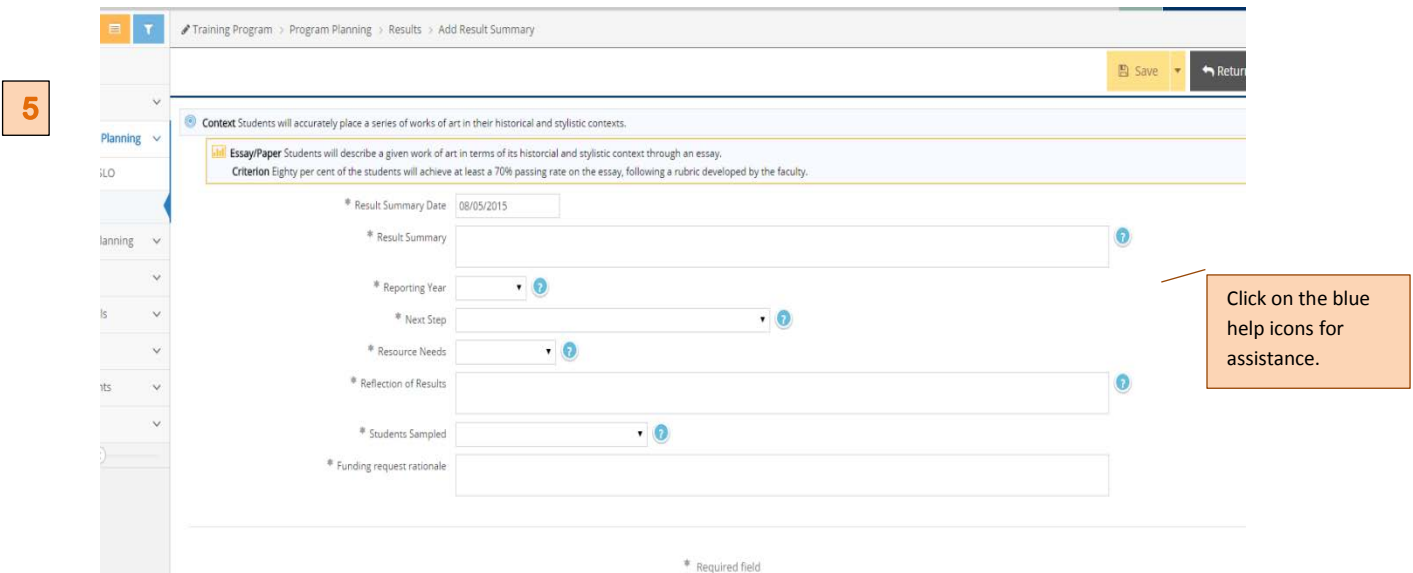
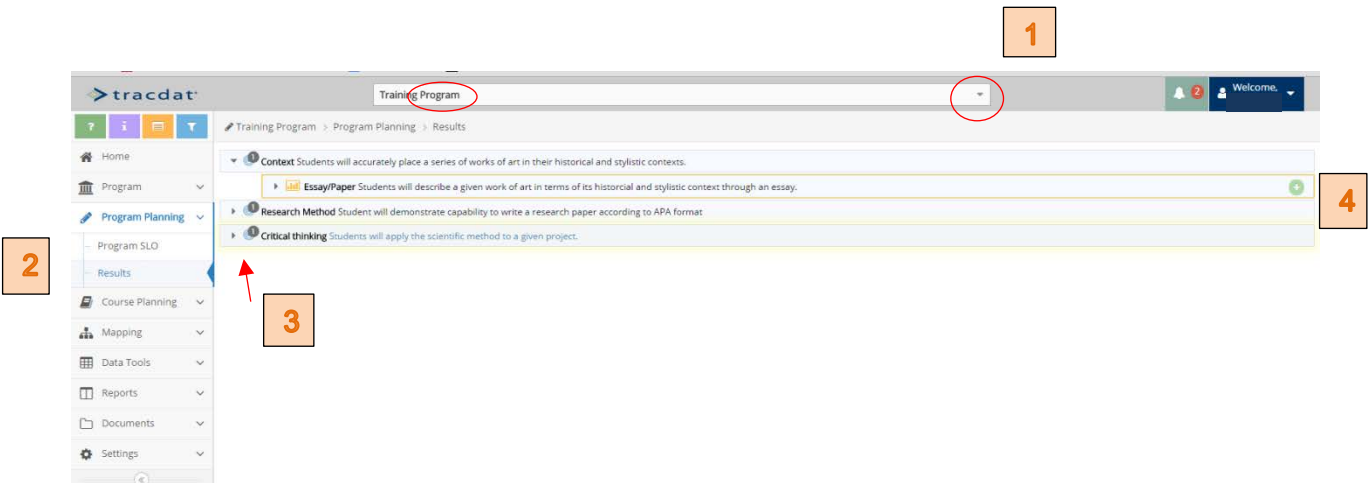
This is a screenshot of the 'Add Program SLO' form. It includes a breadcrumb trail: 'Training Program > Program Planning > Program SLO > Add Program SLO'. At the top right are 'Save' and 'Return' buttons. The form contains the following fields:
 

- \* Program SLO Name
- \* Program SLO
- Outcome Status
- Next Assessment Cycle
- Date Created
- Date Deactivated

Click Save before returning.

## Programs: Adding Results

- 1 Check that the desired Program has been selected at the top of the screen.
- 2 Select Program Planning. Then select *Results*.
- 3 Select the desired SLO by clicking on the little arrow to the left.
- 4 Click on the green circle  to open the result summary page.
- 5 Enter the data into the required fields. Use the Help items for assistance. Click *Save* when completed.



## Programs: Adding an Action Plan

- 1 Select the appropriate program from the top drop-down menu.
- 2 Ensure that results have already been entered. The dark circle indicates how many results have already been entered.
- 3 Click on the green circle to add an action plan.
- 4 Add the action plan in the required field. The Action Date automatically default's to today's date, but it can be changed if desired. Click *Save* and *Return*.

The screenshot shows the Tracdat interface. At the top, a dropdown menu for 'Training Program' is circled in red and labeled '1'. On the left, the 'Program Planning' sidebar is highlighted with a red arrow and labeled '2'. In the main content area, the 'Add Action' button is circled in red and labeled '3'. The interface displays a list of SLOs, including 'Context', 'Essay/Paper', 'Research Method', and 'Critical thinking'. The 'Essay/Paper' SLO is selected, showing its criterion and a table of results for the 2011-2012 period.

This screenshot shows the 'Add Action' form for the 'Essay/Paper' SLO. The 'Save' and 'Return' buttons are highlighted in yellow. The 'Action Date' field is pre-filled with '05/05/2014'. The 'Action' field is empty. The 'Save' button is labeled '4'.

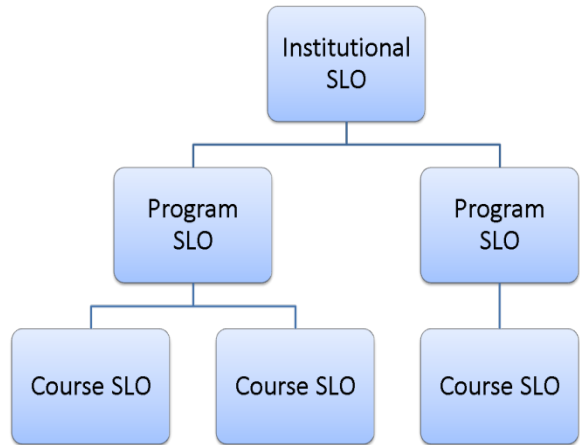
Click Save when completed.

## Curriculum Mapping: Aligning Course SLOs to Program and Institutional Outcomes

Program and institutional learning outcomes are frequently assessed at the course level. An *outcome alignment map* shows how a set of courses contribute to the overall goals of the program. It is expected that as a student progresses through the program, he/she should reach a level of mastering the various outcomes.

Program and course outcomes must also map to our General Educational/Institutional Outcomes, which are the overall set of abilities and qualities a student graduating from Palomar should possess. For a description of those, click [here](#).

All curriculum mapping must be recorded within TracDat.



### Mapping Course SLOs to GE/Institutional SLOs

- 1 If this needs to be added to an assessment plan, click on *Mapping* on the main menu. Select *Course SLOs Mapping to GE/ILOs*. The GE/ILOs are listed on the left. Scroll down to view all of the GE/ILOs.
- 2 Select the desired course. Course SLOs are listed across the top. Scroll across if appropriate to view all.
- 3 Select any of the GE/ILOs that the course SLO assesses.

GE/Institutional Outcomes	TRAIN 101 - Training 101
<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Critical Thinking</b> Successful students will analyze a problem and set up a reasonable approach ... <b>Safety</b> Students will demonstrate safety techniques with equipment per safety guidelines established ... <b>Drawings</b> Solve a residential interior design challenge to create a full digital package layout of 2 an ...
Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World Through study in the sciences and mathematics, social sciences, humanities, histories ...	
Intellectual and Practical Skills: A Inquiry and analysis	✓
Intellectual and Practical Skills: B Critical and creative thinking	✓
Intellectual and Practical Skills: C Written and oral communication	✓
Intellectual and Practical Skills: D Artistic perception	
Intellectual and Practical Skills: E Quantitative literacy	

course SLO actually assesses. Check the Documents area in TracDat for examples of the ILOs and current rubrics.

## Mapping Program SLOs to Course SLOs

Program SLOs are aligned three ways: to the course SLOs in the related discipline, to the identified program goals, and to the GE/ILOs. This alignment is referred to as *mapping*. To begin, align the course SLOs to the program goals and program SLOs.

- 1 Select the appropriate program from the top.
- 2 Select *Course SLOs Mapping to Program SLOs* under Mapping on the left menu. Then select the appropriate course from the drop-down menu.
- 3 Program goals and program SLOs are listed on the left; course SLOs are listed across the top. Click in the cell that best aligns the course SLOs with program goals and program SLOs.

The screenshot shows the TracDat interface for 'Training Program' with the following elements:

- 1**: A dropdown menu in the top right corner of the header area.
- 2**: A dropdown menu in the left sidebar under 'Mapping' pointing to 'Course SLOs Mapping to Program SLOs', and another dropdown menu in the top left of the main content area showing 'TRAIN 105 - Training 105\*'.
- 3**: A table with columns for 'Goals' and 'Program SLOs'. The 'Goals' section includes:
  - PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC RELATIONS**: Students will be able to design and develop strategic goals and...
  - psychological growth**: Students will be able to analyze how an individual's developmental histor...
  - External Sources**: Incorporate relevant external sources and demonstrate academic integrity!
  - \* Program Goal**: All course and program assessment planning, results and actions are entered into TracDat.
  - \* Program Goal**: Program graduates will successfully pass the licensing test at a 90% rate.

The table below summarizes the mapping of course SLOs to program goals and SLOs:

Course SLO	PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC RELATIONS	psychological growth	External Sources
<b>* Program Goal</b> : All course and program assessment planning, results and actions are entered into TracDat.	✓	✓	✓
<b>* Program Goal</b> : Program graduates will successfully pass the licensing test at a 90% rate.	✓	✓	✓
<b>Context</b> : Students will accurately place a series of works of art in their historical and stylistic contexts.			
<b>Research Method</b> : Student will demonstrate capability to write a research paper according to APA format.			✓
<b>Critical thinking</b> : Students will apply the scientific method to a given project.	✓	✓	

## Mapping Program SLOs to Program Goals & GE/ILOs

- 1 Confirm that the desired program has been selected.
- 2 Click on *Mapping* followed by *Program SLOs Mapping to Goals & GE/ILOs*.
- 3 Identify which program SLOs map to the program goals. Click Save when completed.
- 4 To map to the GE/Institutional Outcomes, switch the view from the drop-down menu. Select the program outcomes that assess the GE/Outcomes.

Goals	Context Students will accurately place a series of works of art in their historical and stylistic ...	Research Method Student will demonstrate capability to write a research paper according to APA ...	Critical thinking Students will apply the scientific method to a given project.
* Program Goal All course and program assessment planning, results and actions are entered into TracDat.	✓	✓	
* Program Goal Program graduates will successfully pass the licensing test at a 90% rate.		✓	✓

Outcomes	Context Students will accurately place a series of works of art in their historical and stylistic ...	Research Method Student will demonstrate capability to write a research paper according to APA ...	Critical thinking Students will apply the scientific method to a given project.
Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World Through study in the sciences and mathematics, social sciences, humanities, histories ...			
Intellectual and Practical Skills: A Inquiry and analysis		✓	✓
Intellectual and Practical Skills: B Critical and creative thinking	✓		✓
Intellectual and Practical Skills: C Written and oral communication		✓	
Intellectual and Practical Skills: D Artistic perception	✓		
Intellectual and Practical Skills: E Quantitative literacy			

For more information: view the rubrics for the GE/ILOs that the College has already assessed in the Documents section of the database.



## Curriculum Mapping: Levels of Mastery

A curriculum map identifies the learning goals for a particular SLO. This is especially useful in program review where faculty can link the course content to the appropriate program SLOs. For example, one course may expect students to be introduced to the program learning outcome compared to other courses where the students are expected to develop or master the same outcome. The curriculum mapping process ensures that all courses are aligned with program outcomes and that all program outcomes are assessed in the courses within the program.

- 1 Confirm that the desired program has been selected from the top drop-down menu.
- 2 Click on *Mapping* followed by *Curriculum Mapping* on the main menu to the left.
- 3 Program SLOs are listed on the left; courses are on the top. Select the level by clicking on the actual number. The check indicates that a number has been selected. Note that more than one level can be selected, if appropriate. Click Save to complete.

The screenshot shows the Tracdat interface for Curriculum Mapping. At the top, there is a 'Training Program' dropdown menu (callout 1) and a 'Welcome' user profile. The left navigation menu (callout 2) includes 'Home', 'Program', 'Program Planning', 'Course Planning', 'Mapping', and 'Data Tools'. The 'Mapping' section is expanded to show 'Curriculum Mapping'. The main content area displays a table with the following structure:

Program SLO	TRAIN 101 - Training 101*	TRAIN 102 - Training 102*	TRAIN 105 - Training 105*	TRAIN 107 - Training 107*
<b>Context</b> Students will accurately place a series of works of art in their historical and stylistic contexts.	✓ 1 2 3		✓ 1 2 3	✓ 1 2 3
<b>Research Method</b> Student will demonstrate capability to write a research paper according to APA format		✓ 1 2 3	✓ 1 2 3	✓ 1 2 3
<b>Critical thinking</b> Students will apply the scientific method to a given project.			✓ 1 2 3	✓ 1 2 3

Callout 1 points to the 'Training Program' dropdown menu. Callout 2 points to the 'Mapping' menu item. Callout 3 points to the '1 2 3' selection options in the table. A note box states: 'Note that more than one level of learning can be selected, if appropriate.'

## Run Reports

The reporting feature in TracDat allows you to quickly see what data have been entered. There are standard reports and Ad Hoc reports, ones that we have customized for our use at Palomar College. If you do not see the information in a report that you would like, please contact one of the SLO Coordinators to create that report for you.

NOTE: the report list will change as we continue to update and customize new reports.

To run an existing Ad Hoc report, follow these steps.


1

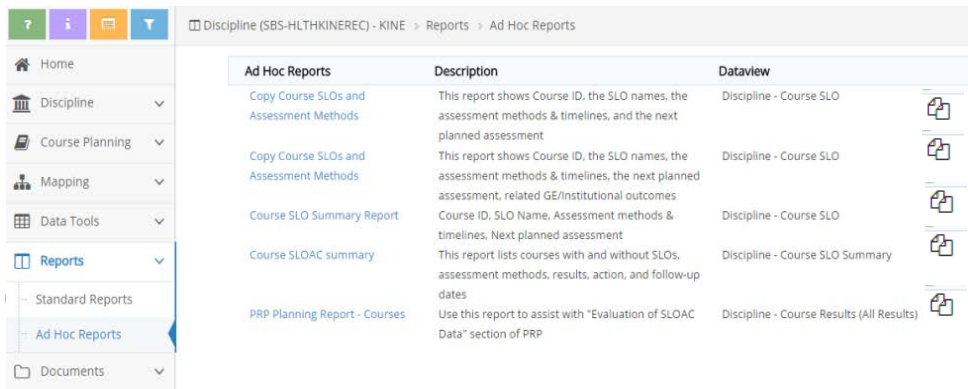
From the Home Page (Discipline or Program), click on *Reports*. Select the Ad Hoc reports.

2

Click on the name of the report to open.

3

You can save the document or copy it to another discipline or program that has been assigned to you. Click on the copy icon  to the right of the reports.



Ad Hoc Reports	Description	Dataview
<a href="#">Copy Course SLOs and Assessment Methods</a>	This report shows Course ID, the SLO names, the assessment methods & timelines, and the next planned assessment	Discipline - Course SLO
<a href="#">Copy Course SLOs and Assessment Methods</a>	This report shows Course ID, the SLO names, the assessment methods & timelines, the next planned assessment, related GE/institutional outcomes	Discipline - Course SLO
<a href="#">Course SLO Summary Report</a>	Course ID, SLO Name, Assessment methods & timelines, Next planned assessment	Discipline - Course SLO
<a href="#">Course SLOAC summary</a>	This report lists courses with and without SLOs, assessment methods, results, action, and follow-up dates	Discipline - Course SLO Summary
<a href="#">PRP Planning Report - Courses</a>	Use this report to assist with "Evaluation of SLOAC Data" section of PRP	Discipline - Course Results (All Results)

Click on the link to open the report.

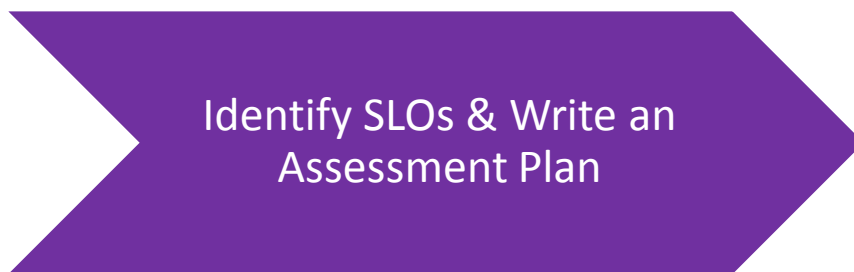
## Appendix A

### Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Cycle

The SLO assessment process essentially has 4 basic steps. First, the faculty in the discipline discuss, identify, and write learning outcomes for all courses and programs. Concurrently, an assessment plan is organized, composed of an assessment method and a timeline. The timeline specifies when to conduct the assessment as well as when to examine results. The assessment plan also includes the *mapping* of curricula, meaning that the SLO is aligned both with identified program SLOs and with GE/Institutional SLOs.

All SLO data are housed within TracDat. Complete plans will allow the faculty to achieve their programs' goals as well as allow for accurate reporting, not only for department and College use but also for accreditation reporting and requirements. These plans are part of a department's Program Review.

#### STEP 1



THIS IS A COMPLETE ASSESSMENT PLAN:



#### STEP 2



The faculty conduct the planned assessment and submit their results to a key person in the department or discipline.

**STEP 3**



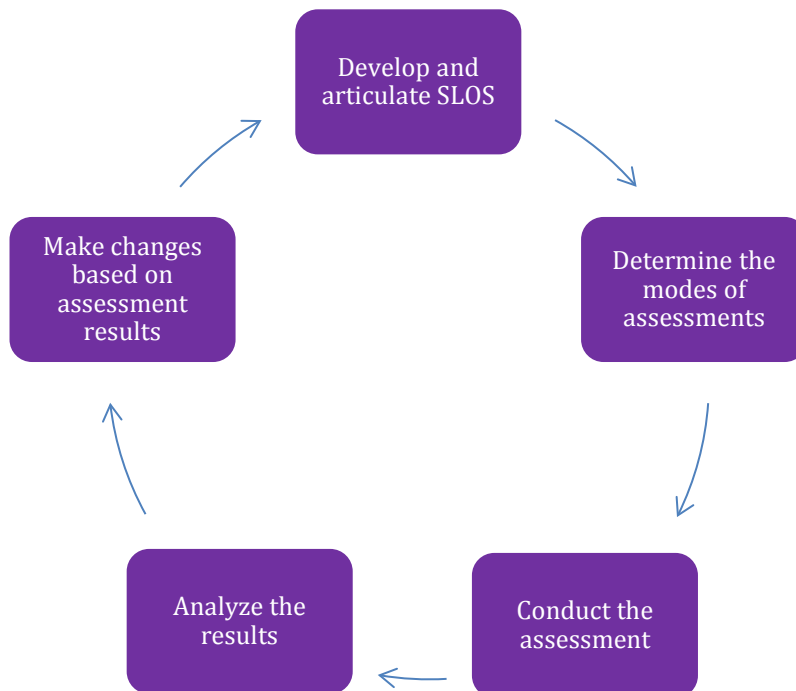
The results are examined, followed by discussion of what the results indicate with regards to student learning. A plan of action is organized and resources are identified to support student learning and improvement

**STEP 4 CREATE ACTION PLANS & IMPLEMENT**



The Action Plan is implemented with follow-up and needed.

This is a review of the cycle for the assessment of student learning.



Refer to the [Learning Outcomes website](#) for more information on writing SLOs, assessment plans, and accreditation.

## Appendix B

### Types of Assessment Data and Assessments

*These definitions are paired for emphasis and contrast.*

**Evidence of program and institutional outcomes performance.** Quantitative or qualitative, direct or indirect data that provides information concerning the extent to which an institution meets the goals and outcomes it has established and publicized to its stakeholders.

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**Direct data.** Direct data measures the exact value. For instance, a math test directly measures a student's learning in math by defining a criteria and standard, then having the student analyze a problem.

**Indirect data.** Data that measures a variable related to the intended value. For instance a person's math skills may be indirectly measured through an employer's questionnaire asking about the computational skills of graduating students.

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**Qualitative data.** Data collected as descriptive information, such as a narrative or portfolio. These types of data, often collected in open-ended questions, feedback surveys, or summary reports, are more difficult to compare, reproduce, and generalize. It is bulky to store and to report; however, it is often the most valuable and insightful data generated, often providing potential solutions or modifications in the form of feedback.

**Quantitative data.** Data collected as numerical or statistical values. These data use actual numbers (scores, rates, etc) to express quantities of a variable. Qualitative data, such as opinions, can be displayed as numerical data by using Likert scaled responses which assigns a numerical value to each response (e.g. 5 = strongly agree to 1 = strongly disagree). This data is easy to store and manage; it can be generalized and reproduced, but has limited value due to the rigidity of the responses and must be carefully constructed to be valid.

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**Formative assessment.** Formative evaluation involves assessment and analysis that generates useful feedback for development and improvement. The purpose is to provide an opportunity to perform and receive guidance (such as in class assignments, quizzes, discussion, lab activities, etc.) that will improve or shape performance on a final or summative evaluation.

**Summative assessment.** Summative evaluation is a final determination of particular knowledge, skills, and abilities. This could be exemplified by exit or licensing exams, senior recitals, or any final assessment that is not created to provide feedback for improvement, but is used for final judgments.

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**Criterion-based assessments.** Assessment evaluated or scored using a set of criteria to appraise or evaluate work. Criterion-referenced evaluation is based on proficiency not subjective measures such as improvement.

**25Norm-referenced assessment.** Assessment of an individual is compared to that of another individual or to the same individual's improvement over time. Individuals are commonly ranked to determine a median or average. This technique addresses overall mastery, but provides little detail about specific skills.

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**Embedded assessment.** Embedded assessment occurs within the regular class or curricular activity. Class assignments linked to student learning outcomes through primary trait analysis, serve as grading and assessment instruments. Individual questions on exams can be embedded in numerous classes to provide departmental, program, or institutional assessment information. An additional benefit to embedded assessment is immediate feedback on the pedagogy and student needs.

**Standardized assessment.** Assessments created, tested, and usually sold by an educational testing company e.g. GRE's, SAT, ACT for broad public usage and data comparison, usually scored normatively.

**Homegrown or Local assessment.** This type of assessment is developed and validated for a specific purpose, course, or function and is usually criterion-referenced to promote validity.

## Appendix C

### Palomar College General Education/Institutional Student Learning Outcomes

#### Example Outcomes

The College's GE/Institutional Student Learning Outcomes are modeled after the LEAP Essential Learning Outcomes Framework developed by the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AACU). The Learning Outcomes Council compiled these examples of outcomes for each area of the GE/Institutional Student Learning Outcomes framework. The examples provide clarity and context for each of the College's essential student learning outcomes. For further elaboration of outcomes and guidance on assessment, visit the AACU VALUE (Valid Assessment of Learning in Undergraduate Education) website.

The General Education Program at Palomar College promotes competence in various fields of knowledge, provides an academic foundation for lifelong learning, and enriches students' lives. As a result of the general education experience, students will demonstrate:

#### Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World through

**Study in the sciences and mathematics, social sciences, humanities, histories, languages, and the arts, for example:**

- Connect and apply the knowledge, skills, and abilities developed through general education studies to activities in personal life, career, and citizenship
- Demonstrate ability to thrive in a complex global world and an understanding of its historical, social, economic, moral, and cultural challenges
- Recognize and respect likenesses and differences among human cultures and their contributions to society
- Exhibit the ability to effectively engage with individuals with diverse backgrounds and perspectives
- Understand scientific and technological developments and their impact on global economics
- Identify and commit to lifelong learning and personal development opportunities
- Promote and participate in the arts and their contributions to human development, expression, creativity, and curiosity
- Demonstrate knowledge of various forms of government, their principles, and relevance to global existence

***Focused by engagement with big questions, both contemporary and enduring***

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## Intellectual and Practical Skills, including

### **Inquiry and analysis, *for example:***

- Assess new information skeptically
- Construct structured and rigorous experiments, gathering data, and conducting research
- Consider possible options with an open mind and an awareness of one's own biases
- Understand that uncertainty is part of the process
- Demonstrate awareness of potential sources of error
- Frame questions clearly, and in a way which makes inquiry possible
- Present evidence in support of an argument or hypothesis

### **Critical and creative thinking, *for example:***

- Explore issues, ideas, artifacts and events before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion
- Reason through logic without discounting intuition and imagination
- Develop intellectual curiosity
- Recognize and scrutinize assumptions, including one's own
- See the value of learning established procedures yet be open to innovation

### **Written and oral communication, *for example:***

- Communicate effectively both in writing and in speech and in a variety of contexts
- Communicate in an understandable and organized manner to explain ideas, express feelings, or support conclusions
- Communicate with clarity of expression
- Communicate with a correct use of grammar, syntax, punctuation
- Communicate accurately when reporting or evaluating information
- Read effectively and analytically
- Use credible, relevant sources to support ideas

### **Artistic Perception, *for example:***

- Analyze and interpret artistic compositions in the visual and performance media
- Demonstrate understanding of the role of art as a reflection and critique of society
- Exhibit comprehension of how formal elements contribute to the meaning and communication of artistic works in visual and performance media
- Show an understanding of the artistic processes
- Analyze and interpret commercial media in the context of artistic history and process

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## Intellectual and Practical Skills, cont.

### Quantitative literacy, *for example*:

- Develop competence in arithmetic operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication, division
- Develop competence in algebraic operations: modeling a situation (translate a problem into an algebraic equation using variables for unknown quantities), solve algebraic equations
- Read and understand graphs, use mathematical and analytical skills to other disciplines and real-world situations
- Develop competence in applied analytical skills: structure arguments, use inductive and deductive reasoning skills, draw inferences.
- Structure arguments, demonstrate inductive and deductive reasoning skills, weigh evidence, draw inferences, perform basic statistical operations, read and understand simple graphs, perform simple data analysis, handle basic financial operations (like balancing a checkbook, calculating interest), and transfer mathematical and analytical skills to other disciplines and real-world situations

### Information literacy, *for example*:

- Determine the nature and extent of information needed
- Access the needed information
- Evaluate information and its sources critically
- Incorporate information into knowledge base and value system
- Use information to accomplish a specific purpose
- Access and use information ethically and legally

### Digital literacy, *for example*:

- Use digital and emerging technologies to:
  - Choose the appropriate technology to accomplish a task
  - Model routine, intentional, and effective use of technology
  - Employ current standard technologies as well as emerging technologies for communication and collaboration in workplace, education, personal life, and the larger community
  - Use technology for improved productivity
  - Maintain awareness of and proficiency in emerging technologies to access, evaluate, create and synthesize information

### Teamwork and problem solving, *for example*:

- Work collaboratively and constructively with others; share tasks; complete tasks on time
- Work effectively within culturally diverse settings; treat others with respect and consideration
- Teach others; learn from others; negotiate decisions and problem solving
- Demonstrate leadership
- Function as an active participant in a group or team setting
- Listen to others' ideas; consider the desires and rights of others equally with one's own desires and rights; show commitment to the team
- Communicate effectively with team members to address conflicts and solve problems

***Practiced extensively, across the curriculum, in the context of progressively more challenging problems, projects, and standards for performance***

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## Personal and Social Responsibility, including

### **Civic knowledge and engagement—local and global, for example:**

- Analyze and solve problems in the community
- Apply knowledge and skills from the classroom to community settings and public questions
- Cultivate personal and academic integrity
- Contribute to a larger community, recognizing and acting on one's responsibility to the educational community and the wider society, locally, nationally, and globally
- Recognize, appreciate, and consider the perspectives of others to inform one's own judgment
- Develop competence in ethical and moral reasoning
- Work through controversy with civility
- Participate in public life, public problem solving, and community service

### **Intercultural knowledge and competence, for example:**

- Demonstrate critical self-reflection of one's own assumptions and stereotypes
- Comprehend one's own social and cultural group identities and the relative privilege or marginalization of each
- Demonstrate intercultural communication skills
- Demonstrate knowledge of the demographics, socio-cultural dynamics and assets of a specific local community
- Examine and analyze a community issue in the context of systemic inequities
- Enter, participate in and exit a community in ways that do not reinforce systemic injustice
- Demonstrate reciprocity and responsiveness in service work with community

### **Ethical reasoning and action, for example:**

- Demonstrate critical self-reflection of one's own ethical values
- Exhibit knowledge of cultural assumptions and norms
- Show the capacity to perceive events from others' perspectives
- Use self-awareness and self-assessment to solve problems
- Demonstrate courage in acting ethically
- Utilize independence of judgment combined with awareness of the opinions of others
- Cultivate personal and academic integrity

### **Foundations and skills for lifelong learning, for example:**

- Understand that learning is a lifelong process
- Learn from the suggestions of others
- Explore new ideas and processes; apply prior learning to new situations
- Exhibit intellectual curiosity
- Independently present meaningful insights and take the initiative to develop them into new, unique, or novel ideas
- Understand how college skills will affect their lives in later years

***Anchored through active involvement with diverse communities and real-world challenges***

## Integrative Learning, including

Synthesis and advanced accomplishment across general and specialized studies, *for example*:

- Connect outside experience to academic study; see connections across disciplines; adapt and apply skills, abilities, theories, or methodologies gained in one situation to new situations; demonstrate a developing sense of self as a learner
- Demonstrate the ability to apply communication, computational, technology and life skills across the curriculum
- Demonstrate integrative learning through completion of capstone courses in the major
- Participate in learning communities and other cross-disciplinary activities
- Participate in work-based learning activities, internships and other experiential learning opportunities
- Participate in service learning
- Attend campus cultural events such as films, theatre, dance, music and art that engage attendees in inter-disciplinary dialogues

**Demonstrated** through the application of knowledge, skills, and responsibilities to new settings and complex problems

## Resources Consulted

Association of American Colleges and Universities

- LEAP Framework - <http://www.aacu.org/leap/vision.cfm>
- Value Rubrics - <http://www.aacu.org/value/> (Rubrics are also available in the Learning Outcomes Blackboard shell)

Lifelong Learning

- Examples above were taken from Long Beach State GE Outcomes - <http://www.csulb.edu/divisions/aa/ge/students/fsll/>
- AACU "Foundations and Skills for Lifelong Learning Value Rubric <http://assessment.aas.duke.edu/documents/LifelongLearning.pdf>
- Manchester Metro U <http://www.celt.mmu.ac.uk/ltia/issue5/willmot.shtml>

Information Literacy

- Association of College & Research Libraries Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/standards/informationliteracycompetency.cfm>

Digital Literacy

- California ICT Digital Literacy Assessments and Curriculum Framework, November 2008. <http://www.ictliteracy.info/rf.pdf/California%20ICT%20Assessments%20and%20Curriculum%20Framework.pdf>
- Related assessment initiatives include: ACT WorkKeys Assessments, Certipoint IC3, ETS iskills/ICT Certification Exam, ICDLU Digital Literacy Assessment, ACRL and the National ICT Literacy Policy Council Standards, ISTE NETS.

Intercultural knowledge and competence

- Examples above were taken from CSU, Monterey Bay. This university has a service-learning component in their graduation requirements. Service-learning can facilitate meeting most of these outcomes.  
<http://service.csUMB.edu/programs/cpulr.html#outcomes>

Civic Knowledge and engagement

- <http://www.aacu.org/resources/civicengagement/index.cfm>
- <http://www.nl.edu/cec/upload/Working-Definition-of-Civic-Engagement.pdf>