Engaging the Campus Community to Document, Interpret and Develop the Meaning of Degrees at Cal State LA

WSCUC ARC 2018 Conference – Future Perfect

Michael Willard, Ph.D., Chair, Liberal Studies/Faculty Director of Service Learning
Michele Dunbar, Ph.D., Associate Director, Office of Institutional Effectiveness

California State University, Los Angeles

WSC
Senior College and University Commission

WSCUC Institutional Report Component 3: Degree Programs: Meaning, Quality, and Integrity of Degrees

Goal: Identify the unique experiences students have during their educational careers at Cal State LA

Committee Representation: Undergrad Studies, Center for Effective Teaching & Learning, Writing Across the Curriculum, Writing Center, Institutional Research, Center for Engagement, Service & the Public Good

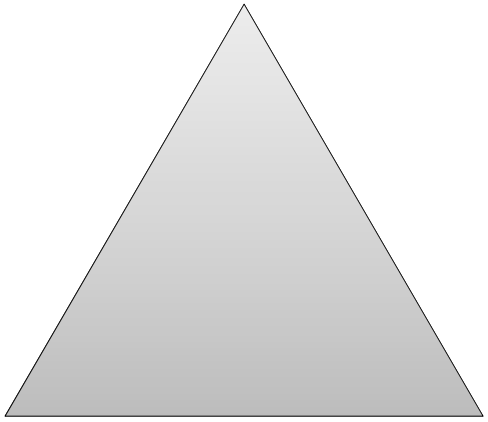
Meaning

A description of degrees from a holistic institutional perspective

Quality

The expected level at which graduates will have achieved outcomes

- ILOs aligned with PLOs
- Core Competencies
- Course Outcomes



Integrity

The cohesion of the degree and its relationship with external expectations

- Curriculum alignment
- Employers' & Alumni expectations
- Accreditor(s): Externally accredited programs (ABET, AACSB)

Meaning of Degrees at Cal State LA

Revealed through an Analysis of Quality and Integrity

Goal: Identify the unique experiences students have during their educational careers at Cal State LA

The Meaning of Undergraduate Degrees at Cal State LA

Earning an undergraduate degree from Cal State LA means that a student's educational experience has included development of competencies in

1. Civic and community engagement
2. Diversity, equity and inclusion
3. Applied learning

The Meaning of Graduate Degrees at Cal State LA *(In Progress)*

- The Graduate Studies Subcommittee is in the process of developing institution-wide Graduate Learning Outcomes (Grad LOs), to be approved by Academic Senate and used as evidence toward identifying the meaning of graduate degrees

Identifying & Collecting Evidence of the Meaning, Quality, and Integrity of Degrees

Evidence from Faculty

- Meetings with Chairs
- Responses to the MQID questionnaire

Evidence from Students

- Participation in Strategic Planning Town Halls
- Survey data

Departmental/Program Evidence

- Department mission statements
- Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)s
- Annual assessment reports
- Student Life learning outcomes

Institutional Processes

- LEAP Outcomes
- Alignment between learning outcomes: institutional (ILOs) and program (PLOs)
- GE Revision
- Semester Conversion and "Conversion Plus"
- Creation of CETL in response to last WASC accreditation
- Strategic Planning
- CO's Executive Order 1071

Identifying & Collecting Evidence
MQID Questionnaire – Academic Departments

- Sent Introduction/Request Memo from ALO to Academic Deans and Associate Deans
- Held meetings to explain MQID and our request in detail: Assoc. Deans & Dept. Chairs
- Requested Chairs to have a *conversation* with their faculty & document the process (number & type of meetings, email exchanges, number of faculty involved, etc.)
- Provided Questions & Prompts for the Discussion(s):
  - What is unique about a degree from your department, distinguished from another university? (Consider: dept mission/vision, course sequencing, emphases, signature assignments, capstone)
  - What innovative programs or student experiences does your department offer?
  - How has your department responded to your alumni and professionals working in the field? (curriculum changes, ways you prepare students for graduation)
  - What impact did Semester Conversion have on your degree program(s)?

Identifying & Collecting Evidence
Program Learning Outcomes and Mission Statements

- Program Learning Outcomes and Mission Statements Collected from Department websites
  - Served as a double-check of what is posted online: Are they clear? Easy to find?
  - Followed-up with departments as needed via College Assessment Coordinators (CACs)
- Systematic Analysis Attempted – Qualitative coding of PLOs using DQP categories
  - Hoped this would be compelling evidence of the meaning of our degrees across all programs
  - DQP as a *process tool* vs. a coding tool or rubric
- PLO DQP Effort Redirected – Integrated into regular, sustainable practices & processes
  - Assessment workshops with faculty focused on revisiting/revising PLOs using DQP concepts
  - Addition of DQP & MQID concepts to Academic Program Review materials & process
  - College-level effort involving all departments in Health & Human Services, led by Associate Dean: PLO revisions, assessment planning, DQP concepts and tools

Future Directions & Lessons Learned

MQID CFR Prompts: What was identified in the process of considering the meaning, quality, and integrity of degrees that may require deeper reflection, changes, restructuring, etc.? What will be done as a result?

- Articulation of "Meaning" for Students Integrated throughout their Career: throughout the curriculum, co-curriculum and extra-curricular programs
  - Review and improve consistency of Senior Capstone Courses: format, labeling/naming
  - Career Development Center's co-curriculum can offer career-focused scaffolding to courses
  - Student Life Staff can help identify other collaborative opportunities with their programming
- Assessment of Civic and Community Engagement *(now in progress)*
  - Coordinated campus-wide assessment effort (beyond tracking number of service hours)
  - Campus will submit application for the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification
- Strengthening of the Data Culture
  - New Assistant Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness appointed March 2018
  - IE staff can offer more workshops to faculty and departments on using data & dashboards
  - MQID-related Alumni Survey questions: collect reflective perspectives on Cal State LA experience

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

APPENDICES

FINDINGS: Meaning, Quality, and Integrity of Degrees

Goal: Identify the unique experiences students have during their educational careers at Cal State LA

Quality of Degrees at Cal State LA

- Program Learning Outcomes – PLOs outline the degree proficiencies and competencies that students will develop
- Senior Capstone - Students demonstrate their cumulative mastery of program learning outcomes through these summative learning experiences
- Curricular components and faculty teaching development initiatives
  - Center for Effective Teaching and Learning
  - Center for Engagement, Service, and the Public Good
  - Writing Across the Curriculum
- Assessment and Program Review (see Chapters 4 & 6) – Institutional processes that evaluate and ensure the quality of programs and student learning

FINDINGS: Meaning, Quality, and Integrity of Degrees

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Integrity of Degrees at Cal State LA

- Accrediting Bodies – WSCUC (WASC), ABET, AACSB
- Chancellor's Office Executive Order 1071 – Review of the coherence of degrees: major core requirements, options, etc. (see Chapter 6)
- Employer Relationships – Provide network to industries and employers and is a mechanism to gather employer feedback
- Alumni Relationships – Provide mentoring and career networking opportunities to current students
- Alumni Employment Outcomes – 2015-16 Alumni Survey findings:
  - 10-year graduates – 87% employed 8% seeking 5% other
  - 6-month graduates – 79% employed 14% seeking 7% other

FINDINGS: Meaning, Quality, and Integrity of Degrees

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The Meaning of Undergraduate Degrees at Cal State LA

Earning an undergraduate degree from Cal State LA means that a student's educational experience has included development of competencies in:

1. **Civic and community engagement**
    1. In 2014, a higher percentage of freshman entering Cal State LA said it was important to participate in a community action program than at other comparable institutions (CIRP survey).
    2. First year students and seniors who participated in service learning increased from by 13% from 2014. (NSSE survey)
2. **Diversity, equity and inclusion**
    1. From their first year to their senior years students report a significant increase in their experiences of diverse perspectives in their courses at higher percentages than other CSUs. (NSSE 2017)
3. **Applied learning and undergraduate research**
    1. In 2014, a higher percentage of freshmen entering Cal State LA said that they expected their coursework to emphasize applying facts theories or methods to practical problems" than other CSUs (CIRP survey).

FINDINGS: Meaning, Quality, and Integrity of Degrees

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The Meaning of Graduate Degrees at Cal State LA

- The Graduate Studies Subcommittee is in the process of developing institution-wide Graduate Learning Outcomes (Grad LOs), to be approved by Academic Senate
- Grad LOs will be used as evidence toward identifying the meaning of graduate degrees
- Grad LOs MAY include the following topics:
  - Theory and methods
  - Original research and original field projects
  - Core issues in the field and different perspectives
  - Applied learning and problem-solving in an urban context

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TOWN HALL DISCUSSION: The Meaning of Undergraduate Degrees at Cal State LA

Earning an undergraduate degree from Cal State LA means that a student's educational experience has included development of competencies in

1. Civic and community engagement
2. Diversity, equity and inclusion
3. Applied learning

Does this represent your perspective?
Is there anything you would add?