Understanding Assurance of Learning
Focus Areas

The goal of AoL is to demonstrate that students are achieving learning goals and promote continuous quality improvement with academic programs.

AoL is best understood as a cyclic process: define goals, objectives, measures and rubrics, assess student work, report assessment results, generate improvement ideas, implement ideas, and reassess.

Learning goals/objectives/outcomes have measures (direct and/or indirect) to evaluate the results.

AoL is data/evidence based.

AoL is based on the institution’s outcomes, not those set by others. You determine your own student success measures.
“You can’t manage what you don’t measure.”
- W. Edward Deming
Assurance of Learning as a Process ...

1. What will the students learn in the courses and academic program?

2. How will the students learn what we want them to learn?

3. How will we know if the students learned what we wanted them to learn?

4. What will we do if the students did not learn what we wanted them to learn?
A Comprehensive AoL Process

• If you have achieved your targets, reevaluate and raise expectations.
• Evaluate the learning goals on an established time table.
Environmental scanning needs to be integrated in the cycle and the question asked: 
*Are we providing the “right” education?* AoL will feed that decision-making process.

**The Assessment Cycle**

**PLAN:** Learning Outcomes, Curriculum Map, Measures, Timeline, Instrumentation

**TEACH:** Provide Learning Opportunities for Students

**USE:** Improve Teaching, Learning, Research, Processes, and Operations

**ANALYZE:** Interpret Results and Evaluate Trends

**ASSESS:** Measure the Results with Instrumentation Aligned with Learning Outcomes
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Same Cycle for a Course, Academic Program, or Institution
Consider your HEI and your areas of responsibility:

• Describe the processes used for assurance of learning at your HEI.

• What, if any, changes do you need to make to these QA processes?
Contact Information

640 N. Hwy. 14-16, Suite J
PO Box 741
Gillette, WY 82717

Phone: +1 307 685 1555
Email: info@PeregrineAcademics.com
Website: PeregrineAcademics.com