Writing Student Learning Outcomes (SLO’s)

What are some basics and benefits of assessment?
Assessment is an ongoing process that takes place throughout the year. When assessment is utilized properly, it can help to create a culture of learning, and lead to more enhanced learning. Assessment fosters deeper communication among faculty and staff, and allows the chance to receive feedback from students as well. Performing annual assessments helps departments on campus recognize trends and patterns that impact success and student learning, which can lead to improvements in both academic and administrative programs. Lastly, it serves as an accountability system for goal setting and following through, and allows for reflection.

What is the purpose of assessment?
Assessment at Midwestern State University is the foundation for institutional effectiveness. Assessment also contributes to the process of continuous improvement for academic programs, as well as educational support and administrative offices. Continuous evaluation is done across the university through established objectives and measures, collecting data, and implementing action plans for programs and departments on campus.

What are SLO’s?
SLO’s are used by those who work directly with students, or for departments who provide services to students. SLO’s are measurable and meaningful, as well as specific and realistic. In each assessment plan, there needs to be a minimum of three SLO’s.

What are the steps to writing successful SLO’s?
1) Answer the following questions:
   - What do you want students to learn?
   - What do you want students to gain from the program?
2) Focus on what you want the student to know, not what you want them to be able to do, upon completion of the program.
3) Consider how this information can be expressed through knowledge, skills, attitudes, or values.
4) Answer the following question:
   - How will you know when the students have learned what you want them to know?
5) Draft your outcome by utilizing action verbs. (See chart below for some examples of action verbs.)
What are some examples of successful SLO’s?
1) Students will be able to demonstrate good resume writing skills upon completion of a meeting with someone at the Career Management Center.
2) Students will be able to describe and analyze the strengths and limitations of various research designs.
3) Students in the B.A. in Spanish program will be able to describe the cultural trends, values, ideas, and different perspectives as manifested through art, literature, and music in Spanish-speaking Latin America.
4) Students in the B.S. in Mathematics program will be able to demonstrate the ability to construct rigorous logical arguments by employing a variety of proof techniques.