

CARLO Overview: Assessment of Student Learning within the Core Curriculum

To address whether A&S students are meeting the student learning outcomes outlined in the official Core documents, the Office of the Core developed the Core Curriculum Assessment Report on Learning Outcomes (CARLO) form. The CARLO form (adapted from the OIE’s SLOPE form) is designed to help departments provide feedback on how they see themselves addressing and assessing the objectives outlined in their Core classes, including which assignment(s) they are using and the results of their own assessment. While the SLOPE form emphasizes programmatic assessment as a whole, the CARLO emphasizes student learning within a particular Core course. The following steps outline the CARLO procedure that will take place each year for participating departments.

Step One: Review the CARLO Assessment Timeline

The Office of the Core focuses on a third of the Core Curriculum per year, with the idea that all Common courses and Distribution List courses will be evaluated every three years on rotation. As Table 1 shows, departments completing CARLO assessments in 2021-2022 include HIS, PSC, REL, and MLC (Asian & African languages).

Table 1. Three-Year Rotation for CARLO Assessment

Term	Commons & DLs Being Assessed	Action
2021 Fall	HIS 1300, PSC 1387, REL 1310, REL 1350, Foreign Languages & Cultures– Asian & African	Prepare CARLOs
2022 Spring	HIS 1300, PSC 1387, REL 1310, REL 1350, Foreign Languages & Cultures– Asian & African	Complete & Submit CARLOs
2022 Fall	ENG 2310, Communication & Media Literacy, Contemporary Social Issues, Fine Arts and Performing Arts, Literature in Context, Foreign Languages & Cultures– Spanish & Portuguese, German & Russian	Prepare CARLOs
2023 Spring	ENG 2310, Communication & Media Literacy, Contemporary Social Issues, Fine and Performing Arts, Literature in Context, Foreign Languages & Cultures– Spanish & Portuguese, German & Russian	Complete & Submit CARLOs
2023 Fall	Foreign Languages & Cultures (non-MLC), Formal Reasoning, Research Writing, Scientific Methods I, Scientific Methods II, Foreign Languages & Cultures– French & Italian	Prepare CARLOs
2024 Spring	Foreign Languages & Cultures (non-MLC), Formal Reasoning, Research Writing, Scientific Methods I, Scientific Methods II, Foreign Languages & Cultures– French & Italian	Complete & Submit CARLOs

Step Two: Prepare the CARLO Form (Fall)

The Office of the Core has developed CARLO templates for each Core course to be prepared during the fall semester. The link to the Box folder containing [CARLO templates](#) can be found on the Core

website under the Core Curriculum Assessment section of the Faculty page. The Core Director and Assistant will meet with each UPD who has a CARLO due that year to individually assist in the creation of each needed form. The UPD will provide the specific contact person for each CARLO form. Ideally, these meetings would be completed before the end of October.

UPDs (or another departmental representative) from participating departments that year will identify an assignment(s) in their Core classes to serve as the basis for assessment. The forms of assessment might be a combination of direct and indirect methods (see Appendix A) and more than one assignment might be selected to ensure that each of the learning outcomes can be assessed. The goal is to select existing assignments and/or indirect methods for the purpose of assessing the shared knowledge, development of various skills, and inspiration of virtues as identified by the CCAC. These three learning outcomes (knowledge, skills, and virtues) are mapped to the learning objectives for each Core course on the CARLO template form.

Step Three: Complete Assessment and Submit the CARLO Form (by May 31)

The assessment plan developed in the CARLO form will be implemented by the end of the academic year. The completed CARLO forms from participating departments will be submitted by May 31. The link to the Box folder to submit the completed CARLO can be found on the Core website under the Core Curriculum Assessment section of the Faculty page. Other resources related to assessment can be found on the [Core Curriculum Assessment](#) section of the Core website.

Step Four: Review Core Assessment Report Data (by August 15)

An assessment summary report on student learning within each course in the Core Curriculum will be provided to the Dean of Arts & Sciences and members of the CCAC by August 15 of each year. Once endorsed by the CCAC, the Core Assessment Report will be posted on a password-protected portion of the Core Curriculum website so that participating faculty have access to it if they choose to review it. Assessments for this section may be made available on the password-protected portion of the Core's website for the purposes of ongoing dialogue and informal evaluation within departments and across the College.

The Dean of A&S and the CCAC may empower the Director of the Core to act on issues revealed by these annual assessments (including but not limited to hosting follow-up meetings, corresponding with departments, and providing resources and opportunities to improve outcomes), and the Dean may present any of the information to the Council of Chairs.

Contact Information

Please email as_core@baylor.edu with any questions.