

Aggies Commit: Reflections on Student Leadership Frequently Asked Questions

Who is sponsoring this project?

This is a division-wide initiative and has strong support from the Vice President's Office and is sponsored by the DSA Committee on Student Learning (formerly Student Leader Learning Outcomes [SLLO]). It is being coordinated with the assistance of Student Life Studies.

Why are we doing this project?

The purpose of this project is:

- To take a snapshot of co-curricular student learning across the Division;
- To prepare students to be lifelong learners;
- To provide resources for student organization advisors to help students reflect on their learning;
- To support the Texas A&M Quality Enhancement Plan.

What are the important points of the process?

- Attend a training to learn more specifics about administering the reflection surveys. The training is scheduled for September 12 over lunch.
- Share the reflection prompt with student leaders prior to the meeting that you'll administer the reflection survey. This will allow students time to think about the prompt and reflect.
- Work with students to take this project seriously and to honestly reflect on their learning through their student leadership.
- Do not try to interpret the question for your students. We can provide you information behind each reflection prompt, but we do not want advisors directing students how to respond.
- Do not add or change the reflective prompts.
- We will report results in the aggregate and will not be identifying individual students and their reflection. We ask that you also not read students' reflections to identify who is saying individual statements.
- It is important to administer the reflection survey in the appropriate month and get completed forms back to Student Life Studies by the end of that month.
- Look at how reflection is facilitated with your students outside of this project. Resources are being developed to help advisors be more intentional in working with their students to reflect on their experience in specific student organizations and leadership roles.

How much time does it involve?

The project will last throughout the 2016-2017 academic year, but there will only be four months with reflection prompts for student leaders in student organizations. Participating advisors need to attend one training on September 12 over lunch. The months with a reflection project will involve:

- Sending the reflection prompt out 3 or 4 days prior to the scheduled meeting
- Ensuring you have everything you need to administer the reflection during a student organization meeting in that month/time period
- Administering the reflection with the student leaders at the meeting (approximately 10 minutes)
- Returning everything to Student Life Studies

What are the months for this project?

October, November, before spring break and after spring break.

Do I have to participate in all the months?

Yes! It is important to have your organization participate in all four months. If you are concerned about this based on the membership structure of your organization, please talk individually with Kelly Cox (862-5624 or kcox@tamu.edu).

Who can participate in this project?

Any staff member who works with student leaders and is interested, can participate in this project. The CSL Assessment Team is specifically looking for staff who advise as part of the job description. It is important to have staff from throughout the division participate in the project to answer questions for the entire Division of Student Affairs!

Which students should I target to participate?

We are looking for those students who are considered in a leadership role within your organization, not members. Advisors may decide that is only their executive team and others may decide that is their executive team and those students in the middle level of leadership. That decision will be left with the advisor, we are just asking that general members not participate.

Can students be involved with the project from multiple organizations?

Yes! Student leaders can participate in this project from multiple organizations. For some very active students, they may see these reflections more than once. Students will be asked to respond to the reflection question based on their involvement with the specific organization that handed out the reflection and not as an over-arching global perspective of all of their organization involvement.

I only have three executives, is that too small?

There is no specific number of student leaders you need to have to be involved. Any group, big or small, can participate.

What will the reflective prompts be?

A bank of questions is being finalized based on the topics in the AAC&U Integrative Learning rubric and the AAC&U Lifelong Learning rubric.

Will I be able to know the reflection questions in advance?

Yes! Advisors will receive the reflection prompts in advance and will need to share those with student leaders 3 – 4 days prior to their meeting to allow students time to reflect.

How will I get the packets?

Packets will be organized at the beginning of the appropriate month and will be delivered to the participating advisor.

What do I do with the forms after they are completed?

Once you have administered the reflections, you'll put the completed forms in the envelope with the cover sheet and return it to Student Life Studies. Packets can be mailed back to Student Life Studies or delivered to our department.

Who can I contact if I have questions?

You can contact Kelly Cox at 862-5624 or kcox@tamu.edu. Additional information about the project can be found at <http://slo.tamu.edu/Reflection>.