

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

THE QUESTIONS:

Do we have to do Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) Assessment?

SHORT ANSWER: YES. It is now part of everyone's responsibilities as faculty at MTC.

Why do we have to do SLO Assessment?

SHORT ANSWER: Our accrediting agency, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) requires it for re-accreditation.

LONG ANSWER: The call for accountability in higher education has been slowly gathering momentum since the 1990s. In September 2006, Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings began the latest drive with the release of "Action Plan for Higher Education: Improving Accessibility, Affordability and Accountability." In her plan, Spellings clarified her intent, stating that "no current ranking system of colleges and universities directly measures the most critical point – student performance and learning" (September, 2006). Her proposal contained a call for the states to link the existing higher education information systems which are presently privacy-protected. She also urges incentives be put into place to reward institutions "that college collect and report student learning outcome [SLO] data" (September, 2006). SACS was one of the first to demand institutional effectiveness in 1989, so it comes as no surprise that they would be one of the first to champion the collection and reporting of SLO data. Since we do not wish the federal government to mandate specific tests for our students to take in order to collect SLO data (think "No Child Left Behind"), MTC faculty must be the ones in charge of how we examine students and their learning. We have had only a short time in which to implement the current process, therefore it is not very precise or well done at the moment. However as we continue this assessment in the future, we will find better methods of testing and better ways of gathering the data.

U.S. Department of Education. (2006, September). Press Release. Action plan for higher education: improving accessibility, affordability and accountability. Retrieved March 22, 2008, from <http://www.ed.gov/about/bdscomm/list/hiedfuture/actionplan-factsheet.html>.

What does all this mean?

As of Fall 2008, every course syllabi contains the specific learning outcomes for students and how those outcomes will be measured. In addition to exam questions (non-rubric), projects, research papers, essay questions, etc. will be used with a rubric) to determine if our students' performance meets our stated success criteria.

Adjunct instructors will be provided information and training on this important endeavor. If you do not have the information, training and tools, be sure to contact the department chair.

How long will we have to do this?

For the next 10 years if not longer. Each year, we will look at the data collected and make decisions. We may see the need to add material to our courses in order to ensure student understanding. We may change the manner and type of assessment we choose.

We need for adjuncts to be included in our discussion. In the future, we hope to streamline this process.

Where do I find the assessments and the data grids?

They are all in D2L in the Humanities Department Course. You can find this by going to D2L, logging in and then hitting the Student tab at the bottom of the page.

The screenshot displays the D2L interface for Midlands Technical College. The browser address bar shows the URL <https://elearn.midlandstech.edu/d2l/lp/homepage/home.d2l>. The navigation bar includes links for Library, On-Campus Testing Center, Academic Success Center, Disability Services, and Self Registration. The main content area features a 'Welcome to the Midlands Technical College e-learning website' message. Below this, there are several widgets: 'Change Password', 'My Settings' (showing user profile for Elena Martinez-Vidal), 'Events', 'News', and 'My Courses'. The 'My Courses' widget has tabs for 'Department Chair', 'Faculty', 'Student', and 'HS Faculty Plus'. The 'Student' tab is circled in red, and a red arrow points to it from the 'News' widget above.

Click on Humanities Department Course.

Once inside, click on Content:

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://elearn.midlandstech.edu/d2l/lp/homepage/home>. The page title is "Humanities Departmental Course". The navigation bar includes links for "Course Home", "Content", "Discussions", "Dropbox", "Assessments", "Grades", and "Groups". The "Content" link is highlighted with a red circle and an arrow. Below the navigation bar, there are three main panels: "Events", "News", and "Course Administration". The "Events" panel shows "Today", "Tomorrow", and "Upcoming" sections, all with "No events". The "Updates" panel shows "38 New Dropbox Submissions" and "70 New Enrollments". The "Calendar" panel shows "June 2011". The "News" panel features a "News Item" titled "Humanities" with a collage image containing text like "Philosophy", "Religion", "Foreign Languages", "Music", and "History". The "Course Administration" panel lists various tools and links, including "Design", "General", "Administration", and "Tools".

Inside Content, you will find the SLO assessments and data grids.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://elearn.midlandstech.edu/d2l/lms/content/home.d>. The page title is "Table of Contents - Human...". The browser's address bar shows "Table of Contents - Human...". The page content includes a "Table of Contents" section with a "Table of Contents" button and a "Print/Download" button. Below this is a "Bookmarks" section. The main content area is titled "Desire2Learn Learning Guides" and features a search bar with the text "Search For:" and a "Search" button. The search results are displayed as a tree view with the following items:

- Unit 1. Student Learning Outcome Assessments
 - A. ART 101
 - I. ART 101 Assessment and Rubric
 - II. ART 101 Rubric
 - III. ART 101 SLO GRID
 - B. ART 105
 - I. ART 105 Assessment and Rubric
 - II. ART 105 Assessment
 - III. ART 105 rubric
 - IV. ART 105 SLO GRID
 - C. ART 107
 - I. ART 107 Assessment and Rubric
 - II. ART 107 Rubric
 - III. ART 107 SLO GRID

Click on links and save to your computer or flash drive.

Please note that there are only three areas you need to fill in on the data grid.

Fill in the Semester, the course prefix, number and section, and your name at the top.

Student Names and Student IDs must be filled in. The easiest way to do this is:

Three simple steps:

- 1) Open your course assessment grid
- 2) download your student names and ID's to an excel file from your MTC Online roster

3) copy, then paste the names & ID's from the downloaded roster file to the assessment grid.

Here's how:

Go to "MTC Online" > <http://mtconline.midlandstech.com/datatel/openweb/index.html>

Username: mtc Password: inside

Click "MTC Main Menu" and Login" use assigned id and password for MTC Online.

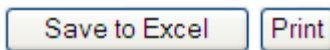
Click "Faculty" > "Class Roster" > "Select a Term" > select the term and at the class roster page select the course. At the top of the roster click the "Save to Excel" link underlined in blue as shown below:

Class Roster

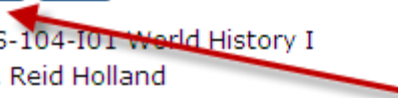
[View Print-Friendly / Save to Excel](#) | [Having Probl](#)



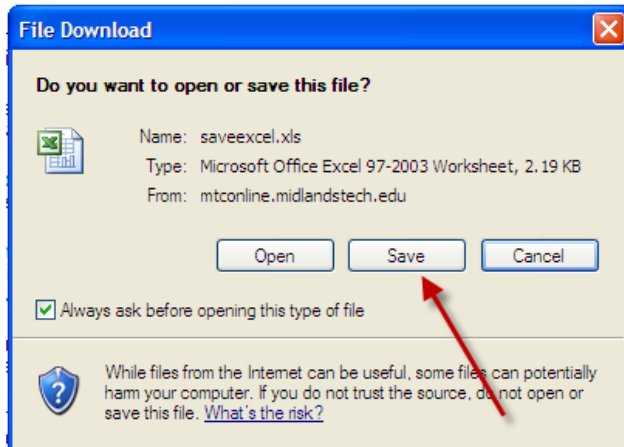
A new window pops open and you must click "Save to Excel, as shown below:



Course: HIS-104-101 World History I
Instructor(s): Mr. Reid Holland



In the file save box, click "save", and save to a portable drive:



Give the file to be saved a unique name, a location, and click "Save". When the download is complete, "Close" the download box and close the roster.

Open Excel and navigate to the location of the saved excel roster file and open it.

If your computer has a version of excel different from the one saved you may be asked a

question like “this file is different...do you want to open it anyway...?” Just click yes.

Your excel file will look similar to the example below—with more information than you need—we want to capture just the name and ID (red arrows) without anything else.

Course:	HIS-104-I01 World History I			
Instructor(s):	Mr. Reid Holland			
No.	Student Name	ID	E-mail	Class Status
1	Anderson, Michelle D.	'0433708 m	michelledanderson@mtc.mailcruiser.co	1 New

Using your cursor, carefully select the name and ID column only and you will see a black bounding box form around the selected area, like this:

No.	Student Name	ID
1	Anderson, Michelle D.	'0433708 m
2	Batusic, Matthew R.	'0487707 matt
3	Cox, Jennifer M.	'0145410 jenn

Select all names and ID’s, and with the selection still shaded, push “Ctrl”+”C” simultaneously on the keyboard to copy these names and ID’s.

Grids

Now open your grid, also an excel file. It will look similar to the one below. We want to copy the list of names from the roster into the first two columns of this grid—see red arrows:

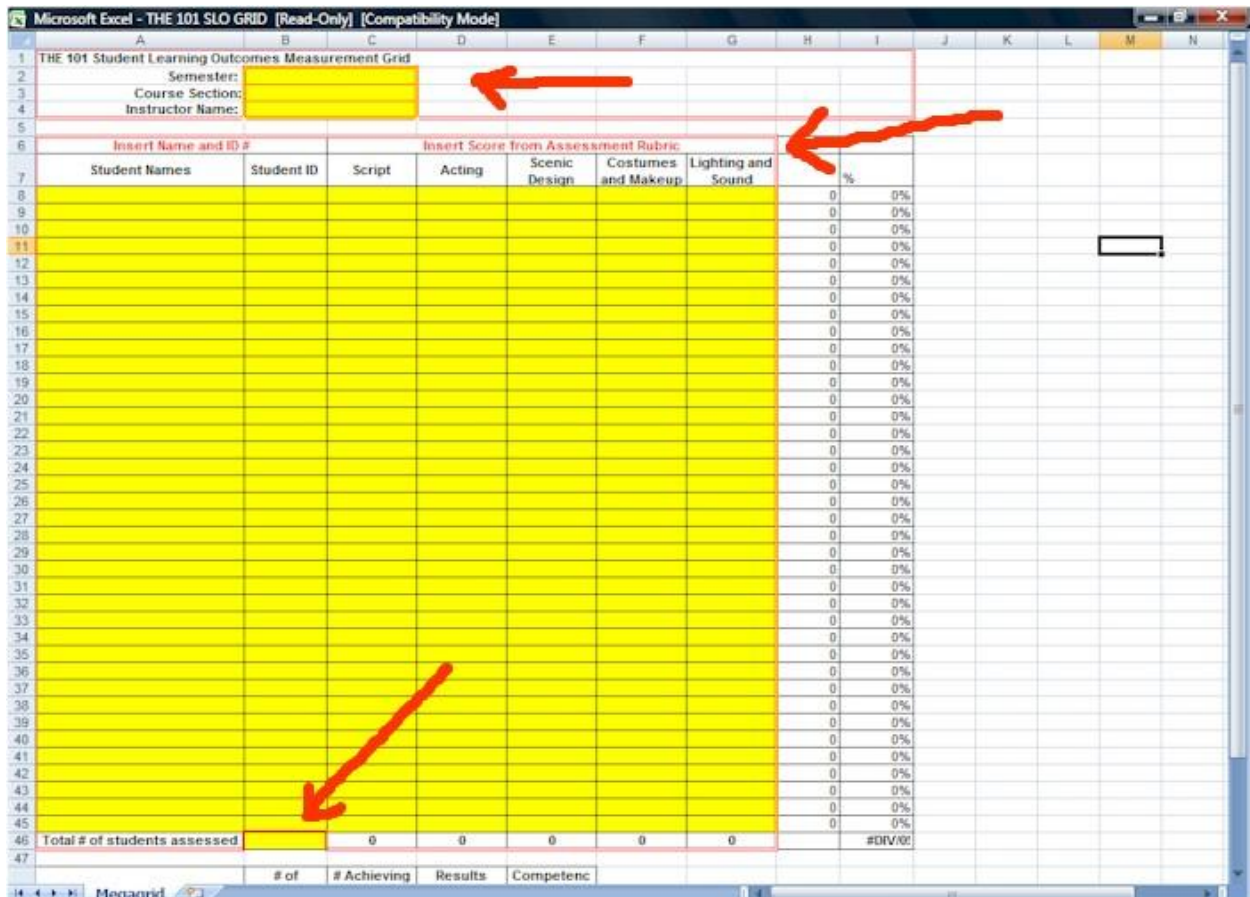
Save to Excel from MTC Online; then copy paste		Insert 1 if student an:					
		Obj. #1		Obj. #2			
Student Name	Student ID	1	2	3	4	5	6
		1	1	1	1	1	1
		1	1	1	1	1	1

To do this, simply run your cursor down the two columns of the grid being sure to “select” all rows of both columns. Now push “Ctrl”+”V” to paste in the names. Your grid should now look like this:

Save to Excel from MTC Online; then copy paste		Insert 1 if student answers corr								
		Obj. #1			Obj. #2			Obj. #		
Student Name	Student ID	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Anderson, Michelle D.	'0433708	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Batusic, Matthew R.	'0487707	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cox, Jennifer M.	'0145410	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Crosby, Elizabeth D.	'0459765	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Finkley, Tanya L.	'0126140	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Freeman, Jason L.	'0372258	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Hammond, Dominique A.	'0518658	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Johnson, Desiree L.	'0476406	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Check to determine that all student names have been copied. Now, save your grid using this file name convention: Course prefix and number-course section SLO Fall 2008 (ex: THE 101-B01 SLO Fall 2008 or HIS 101-A01 SLO Fall 2008).

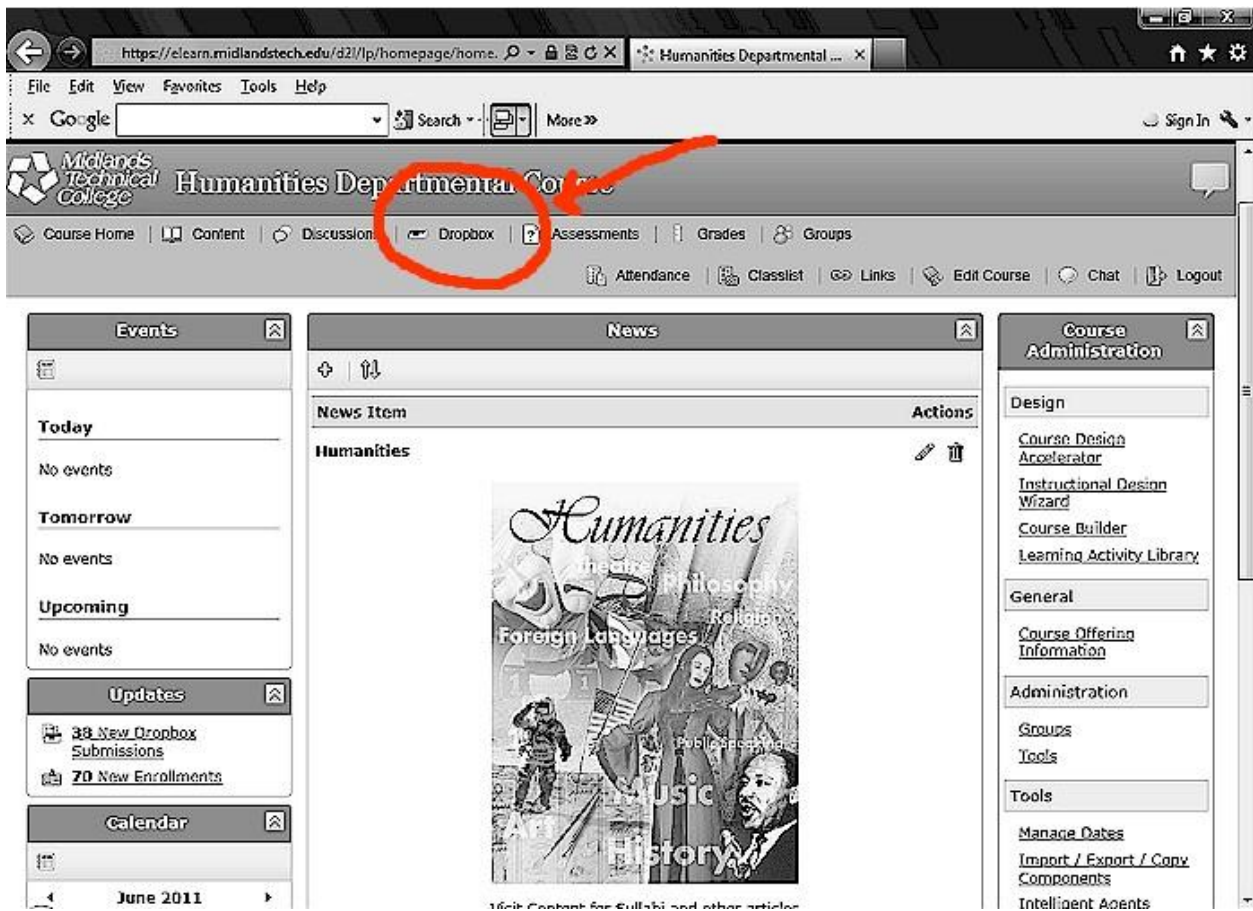
YOU ARE DONE WITH THIS STEP.



The final area to fill in is the box at the bottom which says Total # of students assessed. Fill in the number of students assessed.

UPLOADING FINISHED GRIDS TO DROPBOX

Once you have completed the data grids, you will need to upload to the Dropbox:



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying a Moodle course page. The address bar shows the URL: <https://elearn.midlandstech.edu/d2l/lp/homepage/home>. The page title is "Humanities Departmental Course". The navigation bar includes links for "Course Home", "Content", "Discussion", "Dropbox", "Assessments", "Grades", and "Groups". The "Dropbox" link is circled in red. Below the navigation bar, there are several panels: "Events", "News", "Course Administration", "Updates", and "Calendar". The "News" panel displays a news item titled "Humanities" with a collage of images and text including "Philosophy", "Religion", "Foreign Languages", "Music", and "History". The "Course Administration" panel includes links for "Design", "General", "Administration", and "Tools".

Select the folder for your course:

Instructions

- The Dropbox tool allows users to submit assignments online by uploading their files to designated folders.
- Users can view submitted assignments, sort them, grade them, and leave feedback directly from the dropbox.

Dropbox Folders

Folder List New Folder Reorder Delete Preview

Dropbox Folders		200 per page				
	Folder	Total Files	Unread Files	Flagged Files	End Date	Actions
	ART					
<input type="checkbox"/>	ART 101	8	0	0		
<input type="checkbox"/>	ART 105	0	0	0		
<input type="checkbox"/>	ART 107	0	0	0		
<input type="checkbox"/>	ART 108	0	0	0		
<input type="checkbox"/>	ART 111	0	0	0		
<input type="checkbox"/>	ART 112	0	0	0		
<input type="checkbox"/>	ART 211	1	1	0		
<input type="checkbox"/>	ART 212	1	1	0		
<input type="checkbox"/>	ART 214	0	0	0		
	FRE					
<input type="checkbox"/>	FRE 101	1	1	0		

Open folder and follow instructions.