


CAS Standards and self-study

DSS units have begun using CAS Standards [CAS = Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education] for unit self-study. Standards for most areas in DSS are at this link:  [SPECIFIC PROGRAM STANDARDS 2023 11th edition](#).

The CAS process starts with a self-study team assembled to assess how a unit meets the 12 standards CAS describes for each area. The self-study team reports findings to the leader of the unit, who then develops an action plan and finalizes a report to the VP for Student Success. Section 4 of the standards focuses on assessment.

DSS Learning Outcomes

We have a year of assessment experience now, and while the learning outcomes that we have used for a year are adequate, CAS has a set of learning outcomes that are more closely aligned with co-curricular programs (see third attachment).

The first attachment is a proposed set of outcomes that we are discussing moving to for next year. Because these outcomes were developed for co-curricular programs, they more closely align with our units, missions, and programs. These are draft at this point -- Please let me know if you have any feedback. Specifically, I would like to know if you can see your programs fitting into at least one of the outcomes. If not, what can we add to ensure that your programs are included in our outcomes?

Culture of Assessment

At an upcoming meeting of DSS Leadership, we are going to revisit the expectations for assessment in the units. The overarching question is how do we know that our programs are making a difference in the success of our students? Questions will include:

1. What does a culture of assessment mean to DSS?
2. Do the proposed outcomes fit our programs?
3. What are the expectations for assessment in each unit?