Center For Program And Learning Assessment

“We assess not to learn facts or discover the value of a liberal arts education but to train the mind to think from the book of life.”
Introduction

The primary focus of the Lebanese American University Center for Program and Learning Assessment (CPLA) is to achieve continuous quality improvement through promoting the teaching-learning and classroom outcomes assessment practices at both LAU and regional institutions committed to implementing learning assessment methods in their teaching practice. The CPLA also works with the various academic programs to develop their individual systems. This Center is pioneering faculty support methods that assure excellence in teaching and a commitment to student learning.

The Center is focused on:

• Supporting faculty in their work to adapt, develop and test skills in teaching/learning and outcomes assessment;

• Providing resources to academic programs in their efforts to demonstrate program outcomes and prepare for accreditation and program review;

• Emphasizing the general education and liberal arts programs;

• Learning from recent developments in the assessment and evaluation of learning worldwide, and adapting to regional settings;

• Assessing best practices for learning assessment and adapting them to regional settings;

• Impacting faculty in regional public and private institutions that cater to higher education of students from diverse backgrounds;

• Providing resources to faculty in public and private higher education institutions with students from diverse backgrounds, including disadvantaged individuals.
CPLA Goals

With its primary focus on training and supporting faculty members at LAU and other regional institutions, CPLA will place a special focus on general or liberal education. The Center will also provide services to faculty members involved in specific majors and professional schools.

Faculty participating in the Center’s activities will be able to:

• Analyze mission statements and program objectives to produce a set of clear learning goals and anticipated outcomes;

• Adopt and/or adapt assessment methodologies and systems to gather evidence on how well learners are meeting anticipated outcomes;

• Evaluate assessment results, design strategies based on evidence of learning, and implement the strategies to improve learning.

The Center is currently managing the Teaching Learning and Outcome Assessment (TLOA) Project funded by the Ford Foundation. This Project has a special focus on liberal and general education programs.
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