

Assessment Year: 2023-2024

Bachelor of Applied Science in Allied Health (620)

College: Nursing and School of Allied Health

Prepared by: Becky Farmer

Date: May 1, 2024

Approved by: Dr. Aimee Badeaux, Interim Dean

Date: May 10, 2024

Northwestern State University Mission Statement: Northwestern State University is a responsive, student-oriented institution committed to acquiring, creating, and disseminating knowledge through innovative teaching, research, and service. With its certificate, undergraduate, and graduate programs, Northwestern State University prepares its increasingly diverse student population to contribute to an inclusive global community with a steadfast dedication to improving our region, state, and nation.

College of Nursing and School of Allied Health Mission Statement: Northwestern State University College of Nursing and School of Allied Health serves an increasingly diverse student population while advancing the mission of the University by offering excellent and innovative undergraduate, graduate, certificate, and continuing education programs that are designed to assist individuals in achieving their goals to become responsible and contributing members of an interprofessional global community that improves the health of our region, state, and nation.

Bachelor of Applied Science in Allied Health Purpose and Objectives:

BASAH Program Purpose

To provide students with the education and skills to function as an integral part of the health care community and the opportunity for advancement in the allied health professions.

- To provide opportunities which will enhance the development of roles in the allied health professions
- To provide a foundation for allied professionals to become lifelong learners and to strive for continued professional growth

BASAH Program Objectives

Graduates of the BASAH program should be able to:

- Provide patient-centered care.
- Work as part of interdisciplinary teams.
- Synthesize communication strategies in a healthcare environment.

Assessment Year: 2023-2024

- Utilize informatics.
- Apply quality improvement.
- Demonstrate the ability to utilize research skills for the practice of evidence-based healthcare.
- Utilize critical thinking skills to resolve healthcare-related problems.

Methodology

1. Data from assessment tools are collected and sent to the program coordinator.
2. The program coordinator enters the data into the tables for each SLO.
3. The results are shared with the BASAH Assessment Committee. The committee discusses data analysis, interpretation, actions, trends, results, and future plans.
4. The BASAH Assessment Committee findings are discussed in the School of Allied Health faculty meetings. Additional insights and actions are added to the assessment plan as necessary.

Assessment Year: 2023-2024

Student Learning Outcome	Tool	Measure	Results					
I. Synthesize communication strategies in a healthcare environment.	A. Portfolio project ALHE 4900 (summer, fall, and spring)	100% of students will achieve a score of 70 or higher.		2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
			N	16	4	10	4	6
			Mean	97.4	98.8	97.3	77.75	94.5
			Range	40-100	95-100	83-100	50-91	87-100
			%	94	100	100	75	100
			#not meeting	1	0	0	1	0
		2023	2022	2021	2020	2019		
	N	5	6	3	N/A	N/A		
	Mean	78.75	79.7	90.3	N/A	N/A		
	Range	0-100	55-94	77-99	N/A	N/A		
	%	80	83	100	N/A	N/A		
	#not meeting	1	1	0	N/A	N/A		

SLO 1: Synthesize communication strategies in a healthcare environment.

Findings:

Measure A: ALHE 4900 Portfolio Project

2023: Unmet- 97.4% of students achieved a 70% or higher

2022: Met—100% of students achieved a 70% or higher

2021: Met- 100% of students achieved a 70% or higher

2020: Unmet—only 75% of students achieved a 70% or higher

2019: Met—100% of students achieved a 70% or higher

Assessment Year: 2023-2024

Measure B: ALHE 4610 Proposal Presentation

2023: Unmet-80% of students achieved a 70% or higher
2022: Unmet- only 83% of students achieved a 70% or higher
2021: Met- 100% of students achieved a 70% or higher.

2020: N/A

2019: N/A

Analysis: For 2022-2023, measure A was met and measure B was unmet. For the AC year of 2023-2024, all course offerings for ALHE 4900 (spring, summer, fall) and 4610 (spring, fall) were evaluated. For the 2023-2024 academic year, Measures A and B were not met. In ALHE 4900, One student turned in a project late that was missing many components, causing the student to earn a grade of 40%. The mean was 97.4 for the project which means that this one student was an outlier and not representative of the whole. The same was true for ALHE 4610, bringing the mean to 80 for the project.

Measure A: ALHE 4900 Portfolio Project: This measure was met in 2022-2023 but unmet for 2023-2024. To drive improvement for 2022-2023, faculty conducted virtual meetings with students and provided example projects. In 2022-2023, the benchmark was met and the average score was 98.8%. The faculty will continue to provide brief videos to help students understand the quality and quantity of work required and expected for this assignment. To facilitate continuous improvement, faculty will continue to monitor this measure.

Measure B: ALHE 4610 Proposal Presentation: This measure was unmet in 2022-2023 and was also unmet in 2023-2024. In 2022-2023, as well as 2023-2024 this measure was unmet with one student not meeting the benchmark. In examining student scores on this measure, it was determined that the lack of submission of part of the assignment was the reason for the low score. The faculty teaching this course will implement a 2 part process going forward to increase the likelihood of getting all parts submitted by all students.

Decisions: In 2022-2023 this SLO was unmet with Measure A met and Measure B unmet. In 2023-2024 this SLO was unmet again. It was determined that both measures were unmet because of a failure to submit part of the assignment. Students who completed the assignment showed a positive understanding of the synthesis of communication strategies. To improve student outcomes for this student learning outcome, faculty will continue to implement strategies to help students understand the expectations for these assignments by using more descriptive instructions and showing how each assignment builds up to the proposal.

Based on the results of the 2023-2024 AC results, the following actions will be implemented in the 2024-2025 AC:

Assessment Year: 2023-2024

- Collect data in the fall and spring semesters to measure both A and B to provide more evidence for decisions to improve the program and student learning.
- Continue to conduct the virtual meeting in ALHE 4900 to answer student questions and provide assistance throughout the course.
- Provide example projects for students to review in ALHE 4900 and ALHE 4610.

These actions will maintain or improve students' ability to synthesize communication strategies in the healthcare environment.

Student Learning Outcome	Tool	Measure	Results					
II. Demonstrate the ability to utilize research skills for the practice of evidence-based healthcare	A. Research Proposal (ALHE 4520) fall	100% of students will achieve a score of 70 or higher.		2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
			N	16	9	9	N/A	N/A
			Mean	96.6	93.6	98.6	N/A	N/A
			Range	85-100	85-100	95-99	N/A	N/A
			%	100	100	100	N/A	N/A
			#not meeting	0	0	0	N/A	N/A
	B. Module 2 Quiz: "Introduction to Quantitative & Qualitative Research" (ALHE 4520) fall	100% of students will achieve a score of 70 or higher.		2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
			N	16	9	9	10	11
			Mean	90	93.3	97.8	97	97.3
			Range	70-100	80-100	90-100	90-100	90-100
			%	100	100	100	100	100
			#not meeting	0	0	0	0	0

Assessment Year: 2023-2024

SLO 2: Demonstrate the ability to utilize research skills for the practice of evidence-based healthcare.

Findings:

Measure A: ALHE 4520 Research Proposal

2023: Met—100% of students achieved a 70% or higher
2022: Met—100% of students achieved a 70% or higher
2021: Met—100% of students achieved a 70% or higher
2020: N/A
2019: N/A

Measure B: ALHE 4520 Quiz— Qualitative/Quantitative Research

2023: Met—100% of students achieved a 70% or higher
2022: Met—100% of students achieved a 70% or higher
2021: Met—100% of students achieved a 70% or higher
2020: Met—100% of students achieved a 70% or higher
2019: Met—100% of students achieved a 70% or higher

Analysis: In 2022-2023, both measures were met with 100% of students scoring 70% or higher. Looking at the results for both measures this year, it would appear that students are doing well in terms of this SLO. Measures A and B were both met with all students meeting the benchmark.

Measure A: ALHE 4520 Research Proposal: To drive improvement in the 2022-2023 AC, the faculty refined the measure based on student feedback. In 2023-2024, the measure was met with a 96.6% average. It appears the changes were effective and will remain in place for the upcoming AC.

Measure B: ALHE 4520 Quiz—Qualitative/Quantitative Research: In 2022-2023 AC the benchmark was met with a 93.3% average with the incorporation of additional online resources. In 2023-2024, the benchmark was also met. Thus far, it appears that the redesigned course and new learning materials have increased student engagement and student learning.

Decisions: In 2022-2023 this SLO was met. For the 2023-2024 assessment cycle, the results for both measures remained consistent with last year's results. The BASAH Assessment Committee carefully reviewed these results and determined that no major modifications were needed for this SLO. Since this course is being used by Nursing for assessment purposes, this course will continue to be revised. Faculty are closely evaluating this course from semester to semester to make additional improvements.

In terms of students' ability to utilize research skills for the practice of evidence-based healthcare, evidence shows positive results with both measures met. Based on the analysis of the 2023-2024 AC results, the following actions will be implemented in the 2024-2025 AC:

Assessment Year: 2023-2024

- Continue to refine ALHE 4520 based on faculty assessment and student feedback. This course is interdisciplinary for nursing and allied health majors, and substantial data is being collected and assessed due to the number of students in the course.
- Incorporate interactive activities to assist students in meeting course objectives.
- Use additional online open resources.

These actions will improve students' ability to utilize research skills for the practice of evidence-based healthcare.

Student Learning Outcome	Tool	Measure	Results					
III. Utilize critical thinking skills to resolve healthcare-related problems	A. Case study assignment (ALHE 4630) spring	100% of students will achieve a score of 70 or higher.		2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
			N	7	4	8	10	22
			Mean	75.3	97.5	97.6	90.3	92.72
			Range	0-100	90-100	90-100	78-99	75-100
			%	86	100	100	100	100
			#not meeting	1	0	0	0	0
	B. Leadership/Critical thinking challenge assignment ALHE 4600 (summer, fall)	100% of students will achieve a score of 70 or higher.		2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
			N	11	8	9	10	15
			Mean	94	93.75	88.3	85.6	87.5
			Range	0-100	50-100	23.33-100	70-98	75-97
			%	91	88	89	100	100
			#not meeting	1	1	1	0	0

SLO 3: Utilize critical thinking skills to resolve healthcare-related problems.

Assessment Year: 2023-2024

Findings:

Measure A: ALHE 4630 Case Study

2023: Unmet-86% of students achieved a 70% or higher
2022: Met—100% of students achieved a 70% or higher
2021: Met—100% of students achieved a 70% or higher
2020: Met—100% of students achieved a 70% or higher
2019: Met—100% of students achieved a 70% or higher

Measure B: ALHE 4600 Leadership/Critical Thinking Challenge

2023: Unmet- 91% of students achieved a 70% or higher.
2022: Unmet- Only 88% of students achieved a 70% or higher
2021: Unmet—only 89% of students achieved a 70% or higher.
2020: Met—100% of students achieved a 70% or higher
2019: Met—100% of students achieved a 70% or higher

Analysis: In 2022-2023, measure A was met and measure B was unmet. Faculty have continued to implement changes to ensure student success. Video conferences have been implemented and research resources have been added to assist students.

Measure A: Case Study: In the 2022-2023 AC, this measure was met as well as being met in the 2023-2024 AC. To drive continuous improvement, the faculty reviewed and revised the guidelines and rubric to assure congruence and clarify expectations of the assignment. A video was also added to describe the case study and project to provide students with a better understanding of the assignment. In 2023-2024, the benchmark was unmet with an average score of 75.3%. The only difference in this AC was a new instructor for the course. Discussions regarding providing examples of good work for students and sending reminders of upcoming due dates are being held.

Measure B: Leadership/Critical Thinking Challenge: In the 2022-2023 AC, this measure was unmet with 88% meeting the benchmark. One student was below the benchmark. To drive continuous improvement in 2022-2023 AC, the faculty reviewed and revised the guidelines and rubric for the assignment to assure congruence and clarify the expectations. In 2023-2024, the benchmark was unmet with one student falling below 70%. In examining students who scored lower on this measure, it was found that the assignment was submitted with missing components.

Decisions: In 2022-2023, this SLO was unmet with measure A met and measure B unmet. Based on the results of the 2022-2023 AC results and to drive continuous improvement in this SLO, faculty will continue to monitor student progress on both assignments. The BASAH Assessment Committee determined some changes were needed for improvement.

Assessment Year: 2023-2024

First, for measure A, the faculty will provide examples of “good works” from previous students. Second, for measure B, faculty will send reminders and be more descriptive to help students understand the expectations for the assignment.

Evidence shows that both measures were unmet. Upon evaluation, it was determined that one student submitted the assignment with missing components. Based on the analysis of the AC 2022-2023 results, the following actions will be implemented in the AC 2023-2024:

- Provide examples in ALHE 4630 to engage students and help them model their assignment.
- Collect data in the spring and summer for measure A to provide more evidence to make a decision to improve the program and student learning.

These actions will continue to allow students to demonstrate their ability to utilize critical skills to resolve health-related problems.

Student Learning Outcome	Tool	Measure	Results					
IV. Utilize informatics and its role within healthcare arenas	A. Informatics project (ALHE 4230) spring	100% of students will achieve a score of 70 or higher.		2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
			N	15	10	11	15	12
			Mean	89.6	94.7	92.8	87.3	95.25
			Range	70-100	80-100	45-100	37-100	71-100
			%	100	100	91	87	100
			#not meeting	0	0	1	2	0
	B. Discussion Forum #5 "The role of technology within health care fields" (ALHE 4230) spring	100% of students will achieve a score of 70 or higher.		2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
			N	15	10	11	15	13
			Mean	96.7	98.6	100	98.6	100
			Range	85-100	85-100	100	79-100	100
			%	100	100	100	100	100
			#not meeting	0	0	0	0	0

Assessment Year: 2023-2024

SLO 4: Utilize informatics and its role within healthcare arenas.

Findings:

Measure A: ALHE 4230 Informatics Project

2023: Met—100% of students achieved a 70% or higher

2022: Met—100% of students achieved a 70% or higher

2021: Unmet—91% of students achieved a 70% or higher

2020: Unmet—87% of students achieved a 70% or higher

2019: Met—100% of students achieved a 70% or higher

Measure B: ALHE 4230 Discussion 5

2023: Met—100% of students achieved a 70% or higher

2022: Met—100% of students achieved a 70% or higher

2021: Met—100% of students achieved a 70% or higher

2020: Met—100% of students achieved a 70% or higher

2019: Met—100% of students achieved a 70% or higher

Analysis: In the 2022-2023 AC year, measures A and B were both met. That trend has continued in the 2023-2024 AC year.

Faculty implemented video conferencing for more student interaction and provided project examples to help students understand the expectations for the assignments. These implementations are showing success and will remain as part of this course.

Measure A: ALHE 4230 Informatics Project: In 2022-2023, this measure was met. To drive continuous improvement in 2023-2024 AC, the faculty added a video and created a checklist for this assignment to fully explain the project. In 2023-2024, this measure was met with an average score of 89.6%.

Measure B: ALHE 4230 Discussion 5: In 2022-2023, this measure was met. In an effort for continuous improvement for 2023-2024, the faculty posted frequent reminders to remind students about the due dates for this discussion. In 2023-2024, this benchmark was met and the average score was 96.7%.

Decisions: In 2022-2023, this SLO was met. The results for the 2023-2024 assessment cycle show continued effectiveness with both measures met. Based on the analysis of the 2023-2024 AC assessment cycle, faculty will maintain the current practices that were implemented last AC.

These actions will continue to allow students to demonstrate the ability to utilize informatics and its role within healthcare arenas.

Assessment Year: 2023-2024

Summary of 2023-2024 Assessment for the Bachelor of Applied Science in Allied Health (BASAH)

During the 2023-2024 AC, the BASAH program continued to make adjustments as the year progressed to address student learning. However, overall, there were some decreases in terms of achievement of the SLOs established by the program. SLO 2 and SLO 4 were met this year.

For SLO 1, one measure was met and one measure was unmet. For SLO 2 both measures were met. SLO 3 was unmet with only one measure unmet. Finally, SLO 4 both measures were met.

While these results are not ideal, the faculty is confident that strategies can be implemented in 2024-2025 to improve all SLOs for the BASAH program. Although there were some decreases and unmet measures, there were many circumstances outside of faculty control that could have had a detrimental effect on student learning. Overall, the decreases were fairly small and could be improved with some changes to assist students. Faculty will continue to use the strategies that were implemented in 2023-2024 and add to those for continued improvement.

Comprehensive Summary of Key Evidence of Improvements Based on Analysis of Results

Continuous improvement has always been and will continue to be a focus of the program. With the focus on continuous improvement, there have been numerous changes that have been implemented throughout the program in an attempt to positively affect student learning. Most of these changes faculty are confident that strategies can be implemented in 2024-2025 to improve all SLOs for the BASAH program. Although there were some decreases and unmet measures, there were many circumstances outside of faculty and student control were brought about through the assessment process. Below are some examples of the changes that have occurred during the 2023-2024 assessment cycle related to the student learning outcomes for the BASAH program:

- SLO 1: Synthesize communication strategies in a healthcare environment.
 - Implemented strategies to improve student research in ALHE 4900.
 - Conducted virtual meetings to discuss expectations for portfolio project (measure A).
 - Used proposal presentation in ALHE 4610 for measure B.
- SLO 2: Demonstrate the ability to utilize research skills for the practice of evidence-based healthcare.
 - Revised ALHE 4520 to become an interdisciplinary course for nursing and allied health majors.
 - Incorporated interactive activities to assist students in meeting course objectives.
 - Added additional online open resources.
- SLO 3: Utilize critical thinking skills to resolve healthcare-related problems.
 - Added video conferences throughout the course to ensure that students are fully aware of assignment expectations and allow more student engagement.

Assessment Year: 2023-2024

- Implemented more interactive activities in ALHE 4600 and ALHE 4630 to ensure continued student success.
- Added additional clarification and links to ALHE 4600 for the leadership challenge to improve student understanding
- SLO 4: Utilize informatics and its role within healthcare arenas
 - Conducted periodic video conferencing to provide guidance to students and to allow for more student engagement.
 - Provided project exemplars for students to have a better reference for quality projects.

Plan of Action Moving Forward

Based on the evidence provided by the 2023-2024 assessment plan, the BASAH program will make the following changes for continuous program improvement in the 2024-2025 AC and beyond:

- SLO 1: Synthesize communication strategies in a healthcare environment.
 - Collect data in the fall and spring semesters for measure A to provide more evidence for decisions to improve the program and student learning.
 - Continue to conduct virtual meetings in ALHE 4900 to answer student questions and provide assistance throughout the course.
 - Provide example projects for students to review in ALHE 4900.
 - Continue to monitor the ALHE 4610 proposal presentation as it is a new measure and provide examples to students.
- SLO 2: Demonstrate the ability to utilize research skills for the practice of evidence-based healthcare.
 - Continue to refine ALHE 4520 based on faculty assessment and student feedback. This course is interdisciplinary for nursing and allied health majors, and substantial data is being collected and assessed due to the number of students in the course.
 - Incorporate interactive activities to assist students in meeting course objectives.
 - Use additional online open resources.
- SLO 3: Utilize critical thinking skills to resolve healthcare-related problems.
 - Include more resources and interactive activities in ALHE 4630 to engage students.
 - Correlate the rubric for the ALHE 4600 Leadership Challenge with guidelines for the assignment.
 - Collect data in the spring and summer for measure A to provide more evidence to make decisions to improve the program and student learning.
- SLO 4: Utilize informatics and its role within healthcare arenas
 - Post examples of good quality projects for measure A to help students understand the expectations.
 - Post frequent reminders for all assignments in ALHE 4230 to assist students in meeting deadlines.

Assessment Year: 2023-2024

- Collect data in the spring and fall to provide more evidence to make decisions to improve the program and student learning.