Assessment Year: 2024-2025

Bachelor of Applied Science in Allied Health (620)

College: Nursing and School of Allied Health

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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's College of Nursing and School of Allied Health advances the mission of the University through innovative teaching, experiential service learning, and scholarship. The College of Nursing and School of Allied Health offers quality healthcare education to a diverse student population to achieve their goal of becoming responsible healthcare providers who improve the health of our region, state, and nation. (Effective September 1, 2024)

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.

- 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: 2024-2025

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.		**2024**	**2023**	**2022**	**2021**	**2020**	**2019**
			N	12	16	4	10	4	6
			Mean	98.2	97.4	98.8	97.3	77.75	94.5
			Range	70-100	40-100	95-100	83-100	50-91	87-100
			%	100	94	100	100	75	100
			#not meeting	0	1	0	0	1	0
	B. ALHE 4610 Proposal Presentation (Spring and Fall)	100% of students will achieve a score of 70% or higher.		**2024**	**2023**	**2022**	**2021**	**2020**	**2019**
			N	5	5	6	3	N/A	N/A
			Mean	84	78.75	79.7	90.3	N/A	N/A
			Range	70-99	0-100	55-94	77-99	N/A	N/A
			%	100	80	83	100	N/A	N/A
			#not meeting	0	1	1	0	N/A	N/A

SLO 1: Synthesize communication strategies in a healthcare environment.
Findings:
Measure A: ALHE 4900 Portfolio Project

2024: Met- 100% of students achieved a 70% or higher
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

Measure B: ALHE 4610 Proposal Presentation   2020: N/A
2024: Met-100% of students achieved a 70% or higher   2019: N/A
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.

Analysis: For the AC year of 2024-2025, all course offerings for ALHE 4900 (spring, summer, fall) and 4610 (spring, fall) were evaluated. For the 2024-2025 academic year, Measure A and B were both met.

> **Measure A: ALHE 4900 Portfolio Project:** This measure was unmet in 2023-2024 as a result of implemented communication strategies has been met for 2024-2025. In 2024-2025, the target was met and the average score was 98.2%. 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 2023-2024 but was met in 2024-2025. In 2023-2024, this measure was unmet with one student not meeting the target. 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 implemented a 2 part process going forward to increase the likelihood of getting all parts submitted by all students. As a result of the changes, the target was met for 2024-2025.

Decisions: In 2023-2024 this SLO was unmet with Measure A met and Measure B unmet. In 2024-2025 this SLO was met. Students who completed the assignment showed a positive understanding of the synthesis of communication strategies. To provide continuous student improvement and positive results for this student learning outcome, faculty will provide 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 2024-2025 AC results, the following actions will be implemented in the 2025-2026 AC:
- 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.
- 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.
- Boost communication with students on the importance of submitting all assignments.

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.		**2024**	**2023**	**2022**	**2021**	**2020**	**2019**
			N	10	16	9	9	N/A	N/A
			Mean	96.6	96.6	93.6	98.6	N/A	N/A
			Range	90-100	85-100	85-100	95-99	N/A	N/A
			%	100	100	100	100	N/A	N/A
			#not meeting	0	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.		**2024**	**2023**	**2022**	**2021**	**2020**	**2019**
			N	10	16	9	9	10	11
			Mean	91.3	90	93.3	97.8	97	97.3
			Range	80-100	70-100	80-100	90-100	90-100	90-100
			%	100	100	100	100	100	100
			#not meeting	0	0	0	0	0	0

Assessment Year: 2024-2025

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

Findings:

Measure A: ALHE 4520 Research Proposal	**Measure B: ALHE 4520 Quiz— Qualitative/Quantitative Research**
2024:Met-100% of students achieved a 70% or higher	2024: Met-100% of students achieved a 70% or higher
2023: Met—100% of students achieved a 70% or higher	2023: Met—100% of students achieved a 70% or higher
2022: 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	2021: Met—100% of students achieved a 70% or higher
2020: N/A	2020: Met—100% of students achieved a 70% or higher
2019: N/A	2019: Met—100% of students achieved a 70% or higher

Analysis: In 2023-2024, both measures were met with 100% of students scoring 70% or higher. Looking at the results for both measures this year 2024-2025 AC, measure B was unmet, with one student not taking the quiz resulting in missing the target.

> **Measure A: ALHE 4520 Research Proposal:** In 2023-2024, the measure was met with a 96.6% average. It appears the changes made in the previous year were effective resulting in 2024-2025 being met again with 100%, and will remain in place for the upcoming AC.

> **Measure B: ALHE 4520 Quiz—Qualitative/Quantitative Research:** In 2023-2024 AC the target was met with a 100% average with the incorporation of additional online resources. In 2024-2025, the target was unmet with one student not taking the quiz.

Decisions: In 2023-2024 this SLO was met. For the 2024-2025 assessment cycle, the results for both measures remained consistent. 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. Based on the analysis of the 2024-2025 AC results, the following actions will be implemented:

Assessment Year: 2024-2025

- 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.
- Increase communication efforts to ensure all students complete all assignments.

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.		**2024**	**2023**	**2022**	**2021**	**2020**	**2019**
			N	4	7	4	8	10	22
			Mean	74.5	75.3	97.5	97.6	90.3	92.72
			Range	70-99	0-100	90-100	90-100	78-99	75-100
			%	100	86	100	100	100	100
			#not meeting	0	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.		**2024**	**2023**	**2022**	**2021**	**2020**	**2019**
			N	8	11	8	9	10	15
			Mean	96.5	94	93.75	88.3	85.6	87.5
			Range	80-100	0-100	50-100	23.33-100	70-98	75-97
			%	100	91	88	89	100	100
			#not meeting	0	1	1	1	0	0

Assessment Year: 2024-2025

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

Findings:

Measure A: ALHE 4630 Case Study
2024: Met-100% of students achieved a 70% or higher
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
2024: Met-100% of students achieved a 70% or higher
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 2023-2024, both measures were 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. Student lack of participation has been identified as the factor that makes this SLO unmet.

Measure A: Case Study: In the 2023-2024 AC, this measure was unmet, as a result of changes implemented the target was met in the 2024-2025 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 2024-2025, the target met.

Measure B: Leadership/Critical Thinking Challenge: In the 2023-2024 AC, this measure was unmet with 91% meeting the target. To drive continuous improvement in 2024-2025 AC, the faculty reviewed and revised the guidelines and rubric for the assignment to assure congruence and clarify the expectations. In 2024-2025, the target was met.

Decisions: In 2024-2025, this SLO was met. Based on the results of the 2024-2025 AC results and to drive continuous improvement in this SLO, faculty will monitor student progress on both assignments. The BASAH Assessment Committee determined that lack of participation historically has been the number one reason for not meeting the target. To potentially

improve the outcomes for both measures, faculty will boost communication efforts to encourage students to submit the assignments.

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.		**2024**	**2023**	**2022**	**2021**	**2020**	**2019**
			N	13	15	10	11	15	12
			Mean	91.15	89.6	94.7	92.8	87.3	95.25
			Range	82-100	70-100	80-100	45-100	37-100	71-100
			%	100	100	100	91	87	100
			#not meeting	0	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.		**2024**	**2023**	**2022**	**2021**	**2020**	**2019**
			N	13	15	10	11	15	13
			Mean	100	96.7	98.6	100	98.6	100
			Range	100	85-100	85-100	100	79-100	100
			%	100	100	100	100	100	100
			#not meeting	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

Findings:
Measure A: ALHE 4230 Informatics Project
2024:Met-100% of students achieved a 70% or higher
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
2024: Met-100% of students achieved a 70% or higher
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 2023-2024 AC year, measures A and B were both met as well as the 2024-2025 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 2023-2024, this measure was met. To drive continuous improvement in 2024-2025 AC, the faculty added a video and created a checklist for this assignment to fully explain the project. As a result of the changes, the target was met with an average score of 91.

Measure B: ALHE 4230 Discussion 5: In 2023-2024, this measure was met. In an effort for continuous improvement for 2024-2025, the faculty posted frequent reminders to remind students about the due dates for this discussion. In 2024-2025, this target was met and the average score was 100%.

Decisions: In 2023-2024, this SLO was met. The results for the 2024-2025 assessment cycle show both measures met. Based on the analysis of the 2024-2025 AC assessment cycle, faculty will maintain the current practices that were implemented last AC but will increase communication efforts with students who do not submit assignments.

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

Assessment Year: 2024-2025

Summary of 2024-2025 Assessment for the Bachelor of Applied Science in Allied Health (BASAH)
During the 2024-2025 AC, the BASAH program continued to make adjustments as the year progressed to address student learning. As a result of these adjustments, all the SLO's were met this year.

Faculty will continue to use the strategies that were implemented in 2024-2025 and add to those for continued improvement as well as seek additional opportunities to improve the overall learning experience for students.

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. The changes implemented in AC 2024-2025 are the result of the lessons learned form AC 2023-2024.Faculty are confident these strategies will serve as drivers of improvement in BASAH program mobving forward. Below are some examples of the changes that have occurred during the 2024-2025 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.
    - 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 2024-2025 assessment plan, the BASAH program has made positive strides to meet the programs goals and SLO's. The BASAH program will make the following efforts for continuous program improvement in the 2025-2026 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 aand 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.
  - Collect data in the spring and fall to provide more evidence to make decisions to improve the program and student learning.