



Alchemy @ CSM: Turning a Basic Skills Initiative into Institutional Student Learning Outcomes Assessment through WAC and ePortfolios

In an ongoing effort to encourage the integration of skills and learning across the curriculum, faculty at College of San Mateo launched a pilot Writing Across the Curriculum project in 2006. It now involves faculty from Mathematics, English, ESL, Philosophy, Political Science, Biology, and Sociology. It specifically seeks to address the needs of students writing below college level in content courses and is, at the core, a cross-disciplinary endeavor. Thus it has been a multi-pronged, meaningful, and invigorating process for our campus.

While prompted by the needs of below-college-level writers enrolled in transfer-level discipline classes, this project uses student ePortfolios to document and assess the work of all students in the writing-intensive discipline classes, resulting in a rich dialogue, among faculty and among students, about teaching and learning. By framing the assessment within CSM's institutional student learning outcomes, faculty have begun to see those outcomes as a valuable element in a rewarding process of academic renewal. We are offering an alchemic model, though still small in scale, of genuine teaching initiatives transmuting into meaningful institutional assessment.

Websites that relate to this project:

Our college website offers views of many of the integrative projects that have grown out of these collaborations: <http://www.smccd.edu/accounts/csmilf/>

The Carnegie Foundation's Gallery of Teaching and Learning includes a report of our ePortfolio project:

Linking Teaching and Learning by Linking Community Members

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Since the spring of 2007, faculty members of the Writing Across the Curriculum project at the College of San Mateo have helped students build their eportfolios using the KEEP Toolkit. In the process, faculty have found effective ways to collaboratively assess students' eportfolios. The Toolkit also allows faculty and students to link their projects to Institutional Student Learning Outcomes. To learn more about their work with students, assessment, and integrative learning, continue reading...

<http://gallery.carnegiefoundation.org/>