The Radiologic Sciences Department Assessment Model

Dr. Kyle R. Thornton
Chair, Radiologic Sciences
City College of San Francisco
Quick summary of our perilous journey...

- At some level, it was always done, but...
  - 2003: JRCERT informs our program that an interim accreditation report is due
    - The revised standards (2002) included assessment of student learning outcomes
      - That’s OK, we’ve always done it
      - Interim report submitted
      - JRCERT response – you did not address SLO’s sufficiently
      - Accreditation action: Reduced from 8 years to 5
      - Apply for reaccreditation, now! And demonstrate assessment of SLO’s
        - Uh – oh. We needed to do something
What we did…

- Got educated, quickly
  - Became an SLO workshop groupie
- Mission: Learn as much as possible about SLO’s
- Goal: Get through the upcoming JRCERT reaccreditation process
- Outcomes:
  - 8 more years of accreditation!
  - Our assessment plan was touted as exemplary
What we learned...

- Build upon what you already know and are already doing
- Don’t try to form SLO’s in a vacuum
  - Link it to a goal
- Assessment is not an event, it’s a process
  - It is never truly finished
- Don’t rely on a single instrument
  - Triangulate
What we gained…

- A better understanding of our students’ abilities and limitations
- Data for grant opportunities
- Evidence to share with communities of interest and stakeholders
- Respect from our communities of interest and stakeholders
How we do it...Our Model

- An articulated mission statement that communicates intention
  - www.ccsf.edu/dmi
- Goals stemming from that mission statement
- Programmatic outcomes that branch from those goals
- Periodic assessment of all three
Goals

- The ultimate objective of a learning event
- The organizing principle or category
  - Specific goals for our programs
    - Clinical performance and competence
    - Problem solving and critical thinking skills
    - Communication skills
    - Professional development and growth
SLO’s

- Outcomes are learner oriented, event-specific measurable statements that stem from a goal

- Students will (verb) [something]
  - Examples:
    - Students will:
      - Evaluate an x-ray image for diagnostic quality
      - Demonstrate writing proficiency
      - Compare the separation of powers in American government to that of a country within the European Union
      - Deliver an organized presentation
It looks a little like this…