

AoL – Assurance of Learning

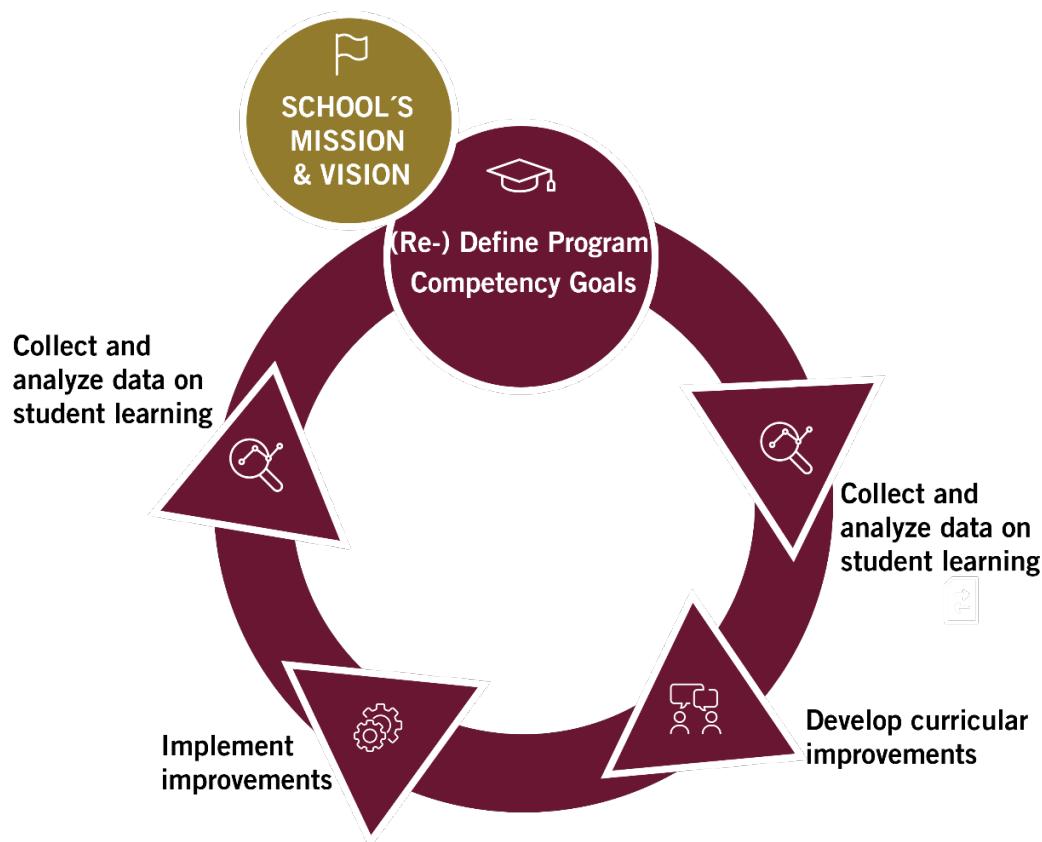
The background to Assurance of Learning

Assurance of Learning (AoL) is a quality management tool which evaluates study programs as a whole. It allows us to monitor whether students acquire the set of competences and skills which the program is designed to offer. AoL complements Leuphana's well-established quality management tools related to program accreditation such as teaching evaluations, which focus on individual courses and teachers, and the student-teacher-exchange in Quality Circles. In comparison, AoL allows to reflect on and implement measures for strategic improvement of the programs and study experience.

The Process of Assurance of Learning

The AoL follows a structured control loop. The following paragraphs offer a more detailed view on the different steps of the AoL-process.

The Assurance of Learning control loop



The Assurance of Learning is a systematic process based on measurements of student learning, the identification and implementation of improvements and the monitoring of outcomes through repeated measurements. For this, measurable Learning Objectives are defined for each Competency Goal.

Definition of Program Competency Goals

The Assurance of Learning system starts with the definition of Program Competency Goals. These program-specific Competency Goals express the educational expectation regarding a program's core characteristics and are aligned with the school's mission and the FSA Learning Objectives. While the specific learning objectives vary by program, they are all grounded in four overarching dimensions:

Disciplinary knowledge and expertise: Understanding and applying core concepts of your field.

Academic & research skills: Engaging in scientific reasoning, critical thinking and responsible research.

Entrepreneurial and solution-oriented mindset: Developing innovative and practical approaches to challenges.

Responsible management: Students act responsibly in their decision-making.

Data Collection

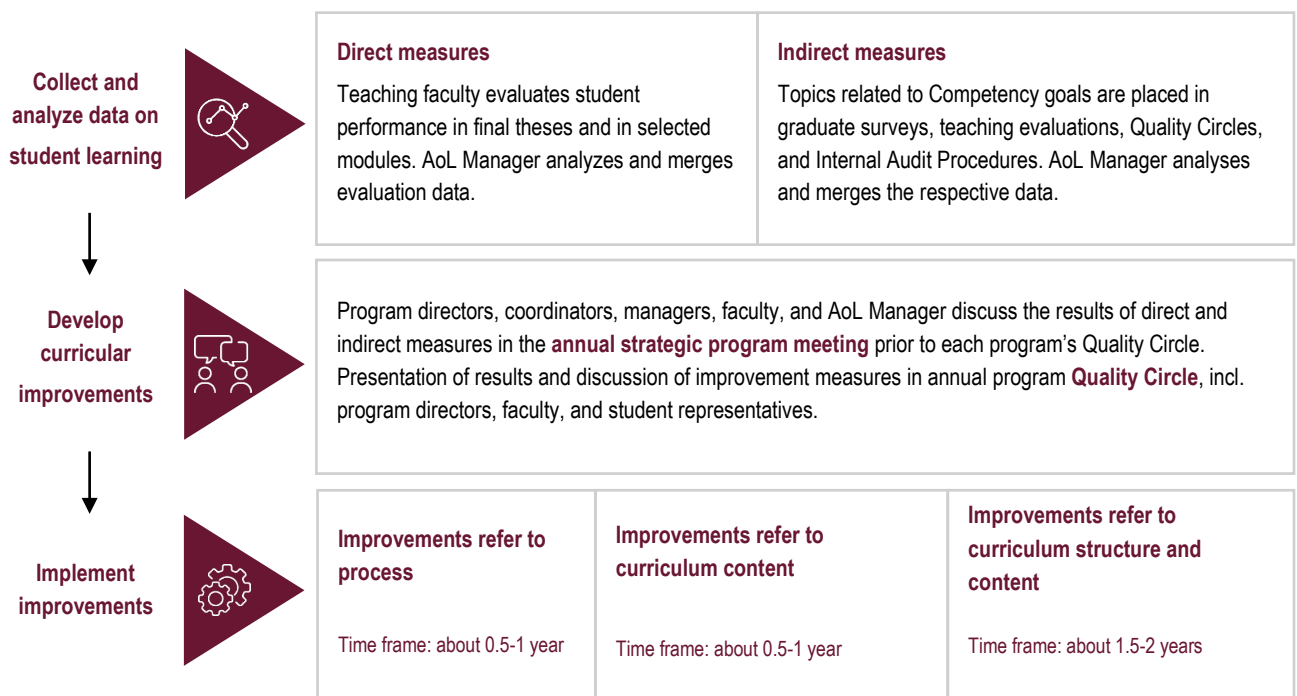
AoL is based on different data sources. The most important data source is the evaluation of **final theses** in our bachelor's and master's programs and of the doctoral dissertations. Also, **specific modules** contribute to the data collection by evaluating the student performance alongside the regular grading. The third method of data collection is based on the **integration with Quality Management tools** such as Quality Circles, feedback from a program's Advisory Board and Internal Audit Procedures.

Details on the data collection process for faculty members and lecturers can be found in "AoL in a nutshell", which is linked to our website.

Improving study programs

Information from AoL is integrated into the school's Quality Management process. In this process, the program manager and faculty discuss the findings and include the information into the program's teacher-student discussion that takes place every year. Colleagues from the team of the Dean's office facilitate this process together with Team Q. In this process, data is evaluated, measures and improvements are being developed and documented. Improvements usually concern the curriculum design, the evaluation process itself, or the teaching coordination.

Improvement process based on AoL



Information from the measurements of student performance flows through different steps and can result in changes in a program's FSA, in changes in teaching coordination and in changes of the AoL-process.

Contact and Feedback

Your contact for any question regarding AoL is Dr. Lotte Lutz of the Dean's Office Team.

We are happy to receive your feedback, either personally or via email at aol@leuphana.de!