

What is the aim of Assurance of Learning?

Assurance of Learning (AoL) is a quality management tool which evaluates study programs as a whole. It allows to monitor whether students acquire the set of competencies and skills which the program is designed to offer. These program-specific Competency Goals express the educational expectation regarding a program's core characteristics 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.

What is not the aim of Assurance of Learning?

The assessment of program's Competency Goals is not directly related to a student's grades. Grading criteria may or may not contain elements close to the program's Competency Goals, but grading criteria most likely contain more aspects that specifically relate to the given module or thesis. AoL cannot evaluate any module or individual faculty member and lecturer. Also, AoL outcomes cannot be connected to individual students nor to the grades given.

Comprehensive Guide for the evaluation of final theses:

1. If you are the first supervisor of a bachelor's or master's thesis or of a dissertation, we ask you to evaluate your student's performance regarding the program's Competency Goals.
2. The evaluation process differs between doctoral theses and bachelor's and master's theses. For a doctoral dissertation, you receive an evaluation sheet together with the regular paper documents. When you are the first supervisor of a bachelor's or master's thesis, you automatically receive an email (and reminders) inviting you to a survey.
3. You carry out the grading as usual. Additionally, you assess your graduate's performance along the items of the survey. Please evaluate your student's performance after the oral dissertation if there is one.

Comprehensive Guide for the evaluation in specific modules:

1. If you are teaching a module that is suitable for the AoL and if the evaluation is to take place in the current semester, colleagues of the team of the Dean's office will get in touch with you.
2. You carry out the teaching in your seminar as planned. The AoL evaluation does not influence the design of your seminar, assignments, nor the grades.
3. You carry out the grading as usual. Additionally, you evaluate your students regarding the program's Competency Goals. The evaluation will be based on the final assignments or examinations in your course, e.g. essays, presentations, or tests.

We from the team of the Dean's office are available to answer any question you may have regarding this specific process or the quality management of our programs in general. Please do not hesitate to contact us via aol@leuphana.de.