# Guidelines for Course Report

Undergraduate Programs

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Quality Assurance Center





## Introduction

The course report (see <u>T7</u>) is a document prepared by the course instructors at the end of every academic semester. It helps the course instructors and course coordinators improve how courses are taught.

The course specification is attached to a copy of the course report. These documents are archived in a course folder or portfolio and used for the periodic review of the program. Course Instructors are required to prepare the course report by reflecting on the following:

- 1. Course content coverage
- 2. Grade distribution
- 3. Course learning outcome results.
- 4. Verification of students' achievement
- 5. Issues encountered while delivering a Course.
- 6. Status of actions of improvement taken during the academic year/ semester
- 7. Continuous improvement actions to be taken in the next academic semester.

Reflecting on the above sections helps the instructors generate specific goals to improve your course.

# **Process for Writing a Combined Course Report**

The Course Coordinators supervising multi-sections are required to follow the instructions given below on preparing the Course Report:

- 1. Every Course Instructor is responsible for preparing a course report for all the sections he/she is teaching; however, section C (Course Learning Outcomes) and Section D (Grade Distribution), section E-Course Quality Evaluation) should be done section-wise in the instructor's course report. If there are areas for improvement in a section, then the instructors must report the suggested improvements in their section report.
- 2. The course coordinator reviews the course report for every concerned instructor and confirms the completeness and accuracy of the information for each course report.

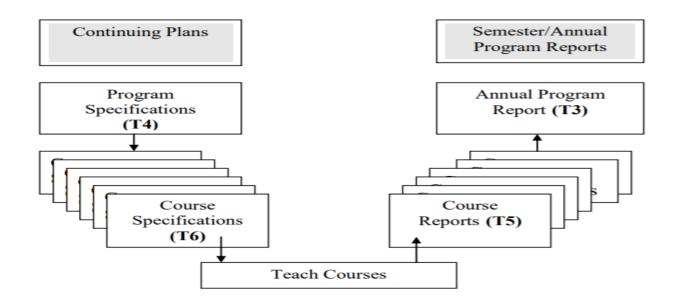
- 3. A combined, comprehensive CR must be prepared by the course coordinator based on the course reports submitted for each section. The course-section reports are attached to the combined CR.
  - a. The CLO results are aggregated based on the CLOs results from each course section and analyzed for the entire course.
  - b. The course grade inflation /deflation is identified based on the total number of A+, A, B+, or (D and F) for all the course sections.
  - c. The aggregated course evaluation survey results are evaluated, which helps identify the common strengths, areas of improvement, and priorities for the semester.
  - d. The course coordinator discusses the continuous improvement actions with the course instructor to be implemented at the course level and then finalized for the combined course report.
  - e. The continuous improvement actions to be taken in the course in the next academic semester are listed in the last section (section G) of every course-section report.

# **Benefits of writing a Course Report**

At the end of each year (or each time the course is taught), course reports are prepared by the instructor for each course, indicating the strengths and weaknesses as it was taught and providing a summary of student results.

These reports must be shared with the program coordinator/Quality Committee.

When the course reports are received, the program coordinator/Quality Committee prepares an annual program report to record essential/key information about the delivery of the program during the semester/ academic year and note any any adjustments required in the Course Specifications



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#### **Guidelines for Course Report**

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# **Cover Page**

Write the following on the cover page:

Course Title, Course Code, Name of the Program, Department, Institution, Academic Year, Semester, Course Coordinator, and the Institution.

Course Title:	Enter the Course Title as mentioned in the
	University Bulletin, e.g. Introduction to Database
	Systems
Code:	Enter the Course Title as mentioned in the
	University Bulletin, e.g. CS340
Program:	Write the name of the Program offering the course,
	e.g., Computer Science
Department:	Write the name of the Department offering the
	Program,
	e.g. Department of Computer Science
Institution:	Write the name of the Institution (Prince Sultan
	University)
Academic Year:	Write the Academic Year e.g. AY2022-2023
Semester:	Write the name of the semester e.g., 1st semester
Course Coordinator:	Write the name of the Course Coordinator, e.g. Dr.
	xxx
Date:	Write the date of submission. e.g. 30 <sup>th</sup> December
	2022

# Section A Course Identification

**Instructor(s):** Write the name of each course instructor teaching this course on both campuses

**Location:** Write the name of the campus along with the section number and campus.

**Number of Sections:** Write the number of course sections and the course-section number the course instructor has taught.

**Starting the course:** Number of students who started the course (including P, W, DN, and F) in each course section

**Completing the course:** Number of students who passed the course (P) in each course section.

	NT			NT 1 C	Number of Students				
0		Instructor(s) Loca		Number of Sections	Starting the course	Completing the course			
1	. •	Dr. xxx	Male Campus	1 Sec-599	27	27			
2	2	Ms. xxx	Women Campus	1 Sec-846/847	18	18			

# **Section B**

# **Course Delivery**

#### 1. Course Contact Hours (per semester)

**Planned:** Write the planned hours for each of the approved activities. The planned hours have been mentioned in the course specification.

**Actual:** Write the actual number of hours that have been spent in completing the planned activities.

No.	Activity	Planned	Actual								
Writ	Write the planned hours for each of the approved activities. The planned hours										
have	been mentioned in the course specification.										
Writ	e the actual hours that have been spent in con	mpleting the plan	ned activities.								
1	Lecture,	e.g., 45,	e.g., 41								
2	Laboratory/Studio	NA									
3	Tutorial,	e.g., 15,	e.g., 12								
4	Others (Specify)	NA									
	Total										

#### 2. Topics not Covered

**Topics:** Write the course topics that have not been covered during the semester. The reference point is the Course Specification/Course Syllabus

**Reason for Not Covering:** Write the reasons for not covering the planned topics.

**Extent of their Impact on Learning Outcomes:** Write the CLO which has been affected and to what extent it has impacted student learning.

**Compensating Action:** Write the compensating actions already taken by the course instructor before the end of the semester or in the next academic semester in any particular course.

#### **Note**

- 1. You must seek approval from the course-coordinator/Curriculum Committee/Department to remove any topic.
- 2. Due to unavoidable circumstances (weather conditions, MoE directives etc.), there might be many courses where some course topics could not be covered in detail. It is recommended to mention all such topics in the course report, especially if it has an impact on a CLO.
- 3. The Department Curriculum/Quality Committee consolidates the information of section B.2 and proposes a compensating strategy (if required) in coordination with the course coordinators for the following semester.

Topics	Reason for Not Covering	Extent of their Impact on Learning Outcomes	Compensating Action*
Relational Calculus	The final	CLO5: Explain	A video and ppt
(RC)	exams were	the use of the	lecture slides
	scheduled	relational	explaining the
	earlier by two	algebra and	concepts of Relational
	weeks due to	relational	Calculus that were
	the shortening	calculus	shared with the
	of the 212	operations	students.
	semester. Time	developed	
	did not allow	specifically for	
	to complete	relational	
	Relational	databases	
	Calculus (RC)	Part of the	
		chapter	
		(Relational	
		Algebra). The	
		chapter's main	
		focus is on	
		procedural	
		language,	
		which is	
		Relational	
		Algebra (RA),	
		taught in detail	
		in addition to	
		SQL. This	
		helped the	
		instructors	

Topics	Reason for Not Covering	Extent of their Impact on Learning Outcomes	Compensating Action*
		cover the	
		corresponding	
		CLO.	
		The impact on	
		student	
		learning will	
		be marginal.	

# 3. Teaching Strategies

Planned Teaching Strategies	Were They Implemented?  Yes No	Difficulties Experienced (if any) in Implementation	Suggested Action
Refer to Section D of the Course Specification shown below, and write all teaching strategies in this section.	Write "Yes" or "No" based on whether the teaching strategy was implemen ted or not.	If "yes," as a course instructor, write if you have experienced any difficulty in implementing that teaching strategy.	Write suggestions on how these difficulties can be overcome in case the same situation arises.
e.g., Flipped Classroom	Yes	It was a challenge to bring all the students at the same level of active participation during the flipped class activities using a virtual	Explore different features of LMS such as wiki, online forums, allowing students to interact during the flipped class session.

Planned Teaching Strategies		e They mented?	Difficulties Experienced (if any)	Suggested Action
	Yes	No	in Implementation	
			medium of	
			interaction	

# 4. Activities/Assessment Methods

Activities/Planned Asse	essment	Methods		e They mented?	Difficulties Experienced (if any)	Suggested Action		
			Yes	No	in Implementation			
Refer to Section D and Assessment Pa Course Specification below. Write all the that was planned is specification.	art -2 on sho e asse	of the own ssment	"No" base	s'' or '' d on	If "yes," as a course instructor, write if you have	Write suggestions on how you can overcome these difficulties in		
# Assessment task*	Week Due	Percentage of Total Assessment Score	the sche	duled	experienced	the future in case the same		
1 Quiz 1 & 2	Week 4, Week 9	10% (5% + 5%)	asses	ssmen	any difficulty in conducting	situation		
2 Exam (Major 1 + Major 2)	Week 7 and Week 12	25% (15% +10%)	t was	s lucted	the planned	arises.		
3 Final Lab 4 Group Project	Week 13 Week 14	10% 15%	or no		assessment.			
5 Final Exam	Week 16 or 17							
Quiz 1(5%)			Yes					
Major I (15%)			Yes					
Quiz 2 (5%)			Yes					
Major II (10%)			Yes					
Assignment (5%)			Yes					
Final lab (10%)				No	Due to the short term the final lab was not conducted.	Final lab (10%) grades were added to course project		
Group Project (10%)						Group Project (20%)		
Final Exam (40%)			Yes					

## 5. Verification of Credibility of Students' Results

#### Method(s) of Verification:

Write the approved process/method followed by the department for preparing the assessments (major, finals, and projects) and validating the students' results.

Mention the acceptable criteria for approving the major or final exam.

Good Practices for writing assessments:

- Unified final exam, if possible.
- Peer-reviewed final exam
- Comprehensive summative exam, coverage of all CLOs (Preferably those aligned with Knowledge and Skills)
- Assessment aligned with Bloom's Taxonomy.
- Exam papers should have questions of varied difficulty levels.
- Availability of the Exam Answer Key.
- Possibility of an average student solving the exam within 2 hours.

#### **Good Practices for verification of students' Results:**

- Blind marking/cross-grading
- Random checking of a few graded exams.
- Co-signing of the final exam and midterm grades (Ensure the final marks have been correctly aggregated)

**Conclusions:** The methods of verification mentioned improve the quality of assessments by validating the following:

- The course specification is completely adhered to.
- The final exam is comprehensive and assesses all the relevant CLOs.
- The quality of the exam questions meets the standards.
- There is a common understanding of the rubrics and the answers to all questions.
- The exam questions are answered within the stipulated time.
- Blind marking or random checking of a few graded exams will avoid lenient or strict course grading.

#### Recommendations

Write any recommendations for improving the method of verification in your course or continue using the same verification strategy.

Method(s) of Verification	Conclusions

Method(s) of Verification	Conclusions
Before the Final Exam:	
	Peer reviewing has helped the course instructors ensure that the exam papers are of standard quality and assess all relevant CLOs during the summative assessments.

# Section C Student Results

#### 1. Distribution of Grades

#### Enter

- the number of students who received grades A+, A, B+ so on.
- the number of students who passed the course
- the number of students who failed the course
- the number of students who withdrew from the course
- Percentage of the students who received A+, A, B+, and so on.

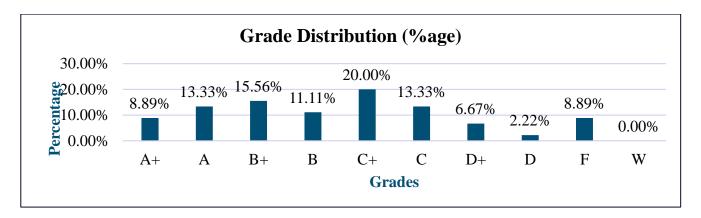
#### NOTE:

- The grade distribution (# of A+, A...) will be for the entire course in the combined course report (including both campuses). However, the combined course report will reference the individual course-section reports.
- The analysis of grade distribution will be done at the course level.
- In contrast, the grade distribution analysis for every course section will be available in the course section report.
- In case there are some unusual observations in a section, they should be mentioned here in the analysis.
- Add charts (optional) for data visualization.

**Directions from the DQAD:** All course reports should be unified on both campuses.

				G	Frade		<b>Status Distributions</b>								
	<b>A</b> +	A	<b>B</b> +	В	<b>C</b> +	C	D+	D	F	Denie d Entr y	In Prog ress	Inco mplet e	Pass	Fail	With draw n
Section xxx Number of Students	4	1	5	4	6	0	2	1	4	0	0	0	23	4	0
Percentage	14.8 1%	3.1 %	18.5 1%	14.8 1%	22.2 2%	0%	7%	3.1 %	14.8 1%	0%	0%	0%	85%	14.8 1%	0%

				G	Frade	<b>Status Distributions</b>									
	<b>A</b> +	A	<b>B</b> +	В	C+	C	D+	D	F	Denie d Entr v	In Prog ress	Inco mplet e	Pass	Fail	With draw n
Section xxx Number of Students	0	5	2	1	3	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	18	0	0
Percentage	0%	28 %	11 %	6%	17 %	33 %	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100 %	0%	0%
Total number of students	4	6	7	5	9	6	3	1	4	0	0	0	41	4	0
Percentage	8.89 %	13.3 3%	15.5 6%	11.1 1%	20.0 0%	13.3 3%	6.67 %	2.22 %	8.8 9%	0.00 %	0.00 %	0.00 %	91.1 1%	8.89 %	0.00 %



#### 2. Comment on Student Results

#### (Including special factors (if any) affecting the results)

In the case of grade inflation or grade deflation Policy adopted at PSU, the course instructor/coordinator must justify the unusual distribution of the grades.

#### **Grade Inflation Criteria:**

Percentage of students receiving (A+, A, and B+)>=50% for the number of students >10.

Percentage of students receiving (A+, A, and B+)>=70% for the number of students <=10.

Grade Deflation Criteria:

Percentage of students receiving (D, F) >= 50%

#### 3. Recommendations

Write any recommendations for improving the assessment strategy based on the level of the students.

# Section D Course Learning Outcomes

**Reference:** Refer to Section D- Teaching and Assessment Part 1 of Course Specification - Alignment of the Course Learning Outcomes with Teaching Strategies and Assessment Methods

#### D. Teaching and Assessment

1. Alignment of Course Learning Outcomes with Teaching Strategies and Assessment Methods

Code	Course Learning Outcomes	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Methods
1	Knowledge and Understanding		
CLO1	Describe the basic database, its architecture, DBMS concepts of database theory, characteristics and concepts related to data analysis, design and implementation of a relational database.	Concept presentation, Lectures, Group Discussions, Flipped Class	Direct Assessment Tool Quiz Exams Assignments Project  Indirect Assessment Tool Course Exit Survey

Course Learning	PLOs	Assessm		sment ults	<b>Comment on</b>
Outcomes (CLOs)	Code	Method s	Target Level/ Criterion for Success	Actual Level	<b>Assessment Results</b>

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs): Write the CLO mapped to Knowledge Learning Domain

PLOs Code: Write the PLO Code or # with which it is mapped

Assessment Methods: Write the method the course instructor has used for assessing the CLO. NOTE: There are two methods for assessing a CLO. 1. Direct (Rubrics-Final Exam, Project), 2. Indirect (Course Exit Survey)

#### **Assessment Results:**

- a. Target Level/ Criterion for Success: Write the target level, which is an indicator for measuring the success of student learning
- b. Actual Level: Write the CLO result

Comment on Assessment Results: Analyze the CLO results. Compare it with the target level. Compare the CLO result obtained from direct and indirect methods. Even if it is achieved, comment on what best practices you have adopted which helped the students to that helped the students accomplish this CLO what best practices you have adopted which helped the students to accomplish this CLO. Note:

1. The CLO assessment should be based on a course instead of a course section in a combined course report.

	Course learning Outcomes	PLOs	Assessment		sment sults	Comment on
	(CLOs)	Code	Methods	Target Level/ Criterion for Success	Actual Level	Assessment Results
1	1 Knowledge and Understanding:					
1.1						
2	Skills:					
2.1	CLO 3: Recognize cyber and intellectual property laws to address the misuse of computing technology and its artifacts.	CS & IS: PL O 4	Direct method: Major Exam Final Exam	(ME +AE) % >75 %	Direct Metho ds: (%ME +AE) = 72%	Analysis: Not shown Recommendation: The student should be given enough practice of using cyber laws to

	Course learning Outcomes		Assessment	Assessment Results		Comment on
(CLOs)		PLOs Code	Methods	Target Level/ Criterion for Success	Actual Level	Assessment Results
	ME=Meeting Expectation (2) AE= Above Expectation (3)	SE: PL O 4,7	Indirect method: Course Exit Survey		Indire ct Metho ds: (%ME +AE) = 80%	many cyber violations.  It is also recommended to discuss the cybercrimes that are committed in Saudi Arabia and relate them to the penalties issued, as mentioned in Saudi cyber laws.
3	Values:					
3.1						

#### 2. Recommendations

This section is very important. PSU follows Outcome Based Education Framework (OBE). The Course Coordinator analyzes each CLO result and provides recommendations accordingly for the continuous improvement of course delivery.

#### Some recommendations that the experts have given are as follows:

- Use only one instrument, such as a final exam (summative) exam, for measuring CLOs mapped to Knowledge and Skills. Keep assessment instruments the same. Since final exam questions are peer-reviewed before they are administered, it is advisable to use them for CLO assessment.
- 2. Check the difficulty level of the question(s) used for CLO assessment. All questions should be easy and straightforward.
- 3. The rubric used for scoring the students' learning achievement should be approved by the concerned authorities, e.g., the course coordinator.

4. Implement the approved recommendations for effective teaching and learning in the following semester and compare the results with the previous semester's results and monitor the impact of the changes adopted in teaching and learning strategies.

#### **Example:**

#### To improve CLO5 results:

Maintain the similar teaching practices and tutorial sessions for Relational Algebra (RA) and Calculus (RC).

The equivalence between RA/RC and SQL should be clearly explained while teaching RA/RC concepts This way the students are able to write queries by understanding every component of the query expression.

Share videos on RA/RC for better understanding.

# **Section E**

# **Course Quality Evaluation**

## 1. Students Evaluation of the Quality of the Course

#### NOTE:

- The section must be reported at the course level in the combined course report. The course section reports will include CES evaluation section-wise.
- A detailed set of instructions has been given in the ppt file which shows how to complete Section E (Course Quality Evaluation) by using Course Evaluation Survey Results from the E-Register system. Use the excel workbook prepared by the DQAD.

Date of Survey: Enter the Month of the Semester e.g., May 2021	Number of Participants: Enter the number of participants in all the course sections e.g. 18	Percentage of Participation: Number of responses/Total number of students in your course e.g. 16.		Evaluation Result: Enter the average score of the course evaluation (based on a point -5 scale), e.g., 4.57 + 4.43 = 4.5 (90%)
Stude	ents Feedback			ordinator/Instructor ments/Response
students, consider of as strengths. e.g.,	ts are not given by criteria having score > s agreed that the instruction class.	The course coordinator or course instructor writes comments in response to the strengths.		
Areas for improvement:  In case the students do not give the students, consider criteria having a score <=3.50 as weakness  e.g.			writes comment weakness. e.g. The xxxx cour recommende	inator or course instructor ts in response to the response to the response to the reviewed in course workload.

The course requirements are more than the credit hours allocated as opinionated by 80% of the students.	
Suggestions for Improvement:  • Write the suggestion, if any, that have been given by the students.	•The course coordinator or course instructor writes how the course can be further improved to address the concerns or suggestions raised by the students.

#### 2. Other Evaluations

(e.g., Evaluations by faculty, program leaders, peer reviewers, others)

- Based on the classroom observation by the <u>Program Chair</u> OR <u>Director</u>, <u>Course Coordinator</u>, OR <u>peers</u>, write the strengths and areas of improvement, if any.
- The course coordinator or courses instructor writes how the course can be further improved to address the concerns or suggestions raised by one of the mentioned evaluators

<b>Evaluation methods:</b>	Date:
Evaluator(s) Comments	Course Coordinator/Instructor Comments/Response
Strengths: Write the strengths mentioned (if any) in the class-observation report	

Areas for Improvement: Write the areas of improvement (if any) mentioned in the class-observation report	
Suggestions for Improvement: Write the suggestion, if any, that have been given by the evaluators mentioned above.	The course instructor writes how the course can be further improved to address the concerns or suggestions raised by the evaluator.

<sup>\*</sup> Add a separate table for each evaluation

## 3.Recommendations:

The course coordinator can write recommendations for improving teaching strategies (if required).

# Section F Difficulties and Challenges

#### **NOTE:**

- The combined course report should include difficulties and challenges CAMPUS-WISE.
- The details provided in this section will help the program administrator investigate and take the appropriate actions to overcome such concerns.

Problems and Challenges	Consequences	Actions Taken
<b>Administrative Issues</b>		
Write down any	In case the concern	What actions had been
administrative issue in	raised in the first	taken by the course
case course instructors	column has any	instructor or coordinator to
have faced while	consequences on	overcome the issue(s)?
delivering a course.	teaching and learning,	
	the course instructor	
	must mention them.	
The student integrity	There is no control over	The evaluations prepared by
during online	students cheating on each	the instructors were time-
assessments (quizzes)	other, even though the	based, and critical thinking
could not be determined.	cameras are ON.	questions were given.
<b>Learning Resources</b>		
Write down the issues	In case the concern	What actions had been
case course instructors	raised in the first	taken by the course
have faced in accessing	column has any	instructor or coordinator to
learning resources.	consequences on	overcome the issue(s)?
	teaching and learning,	
	the course instructor	
	must mention them.	

Problems and Challenges	Consequences	Actions Taken
Sometimes LMS freezes	wastage of time.	Extra time was given to
during the exam.		students to compensate for
		the wasted time.
Facilities		
Write down the issues	In case the concern	What actions had been
the course instructors	raised in the first	taken by the course
have faced with using	column has any	instructor or coordinator to
facilities.	consequences on	overcome the issue(s)?
	teaching and learning,	
	the course instructor	
	must mention them.	
Some students had a	Due to the Internet	All lectures and online
problem with the Internet	connection problem,	practice labs were recorded
connection, so that they	some students missed	and shared with students.
couldn't attend class.	some lessons.	

# Section G Course Improvement Plan

# 1. Course Improvement Actions

This section is used for closing the loop.

Recommended Actions	Actions Taken	Results	Comments		
a. Previous course Report Recommendations					
Copy and paste the recommendations from the previous course report (section F-Course Improvement Action Plan -2 <sup>nd</sup> Table, that were implemented in the current semester.	Copy and paste the actions taken to accomplish the stated recommendat ions	Write the status of the action plan e.g., Accomplished, Not Started yet, In Progress.	Any comments related to the action plan		
Improve students' understanding for CLO 5 (Relational Algebra and Calculus)	Prepare and give students extra exercises on relational algebra and calculus	Partially Accomplished	The unanticipated decision of shortening the semester and conducting the final exams before Eid ul Fitr did not allow the course instructors to complete the concepts of Relational Calculus; however Relational Algebra concepts		

Recommended Actions	Actions Taken	Results	Comments
			were thoroughly explained, but due to the extreme of pending exams, students may have not practiced the concepts of RA thoroughly.
b. Other Improve	ment Actions*		
Any other additional			
developmental measures that were			
taken during the co			
not mentioned above	ve		

<sup>\* (</sup>The developmental measures taken during teaching the course and not included in the development plan of it)

# 2. Action Plan for Next Semester/Year

Recommendations	Actions	Responsibility For Implementation	Time		Needed
			Star t	End	Support
Write down the recommendation for continuous improvement to be implemented in the following semester.	Write down a sequence of actions to be taken to address the recommendation	Write the name of the responsible entity for implementin g the recommend ation e.g., course coordinator or course instructor	Wr ite the ter m #	Wr ite the ter m #	Any resource required to accompl ish the stated actions

Recommendations		Actions		Responsibility For Implementation	Time		Needed
					Star t	End	Support
e.g.	1.	Disseminate		Course	1st	end	Need an
Plan and provide		Teamwork		Instructors and the	se	of 1st	approval from
resources for		Assessment		Coordinator	me ster	se	DQC
planning, monitoring,		Rubric	to	Coordinator	of	me	DQC
and assessing CLO 7		students	in		20	ster	
teamwork. (Quality -		week 1-2.			20	of	
CLO7)	2.	Ask	the			20	
		students	to			20	
		provide					
		evidence	for				
		team based on					
		the Cl	LO7				
		Performance					
		Criteria.					
	3.	Use SLACK	or				
		any ot	her				
		relevant t	tool				
		for monitor	ring				
		the teamw	ork				
		in complet	ting				
		the cou	ırse				
		project.					