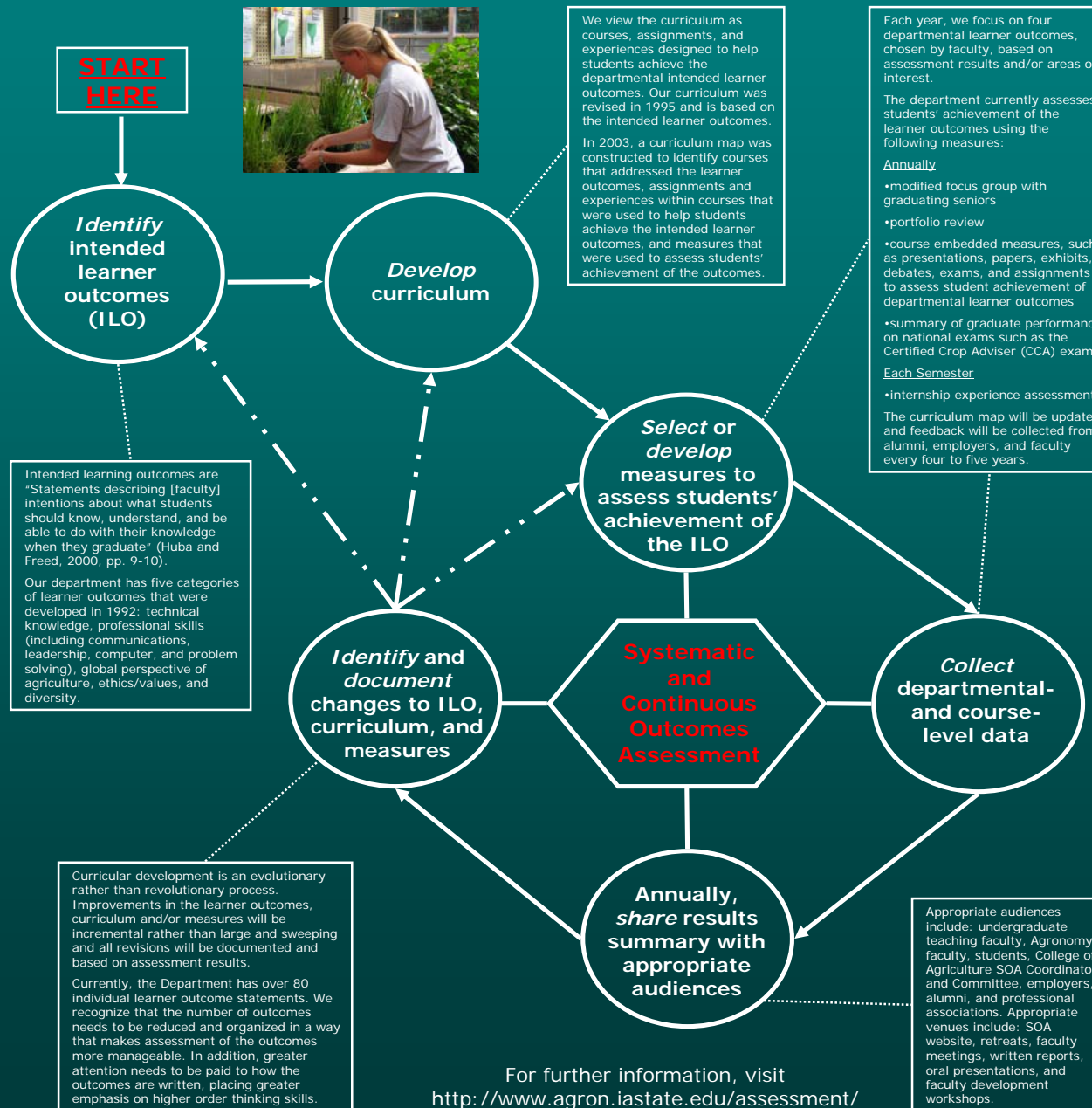


# Model for Sustaining Departmental Student Outcomes Assessment

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## Iowa State University Department of Agronomy Student Outcomes Assessment (SOA) Model



### Creating a Departmental Culture that Fosters and Supports the Model

#### Embedding SOA in the Fabric of the Department

Incorporate SOA activities in the natural rhythms of the department. For example, for students, utilize pre-existing professional development series of courses (Orientation, Career Planning, Internship, and Senior Forum) to educate students about departmental learner outcomes and to collect data; for faculty, include assessment as a faculty meeting agenda item, assessment results in departmental strategic planning discussions, and faculty assessment participation in annual reviews.

#### Making SOA Part of the Work that Faculty Are Already Doing

Faculty already design assignments and projects for their students. Using these artifacts as evidence of student learning makes good use of faculty time and helps to strengthen the connection between classrooms and students' achievement of the outcomes. Encourage faculty to make these activities part of their scholarly work.

#### Creating a Cycle of Improvement

Provide faculty with structured and developmental opportunities and processes for considering assessment results and how those results will be used to improve learner outcomes, curriculum, and measures. Emphasis should be placed on how this information can be used to improve students' learning.



### Reference

Huba, M. E., and J. Freed. 2000. Learner-centered assessment on college campuses: Shifting the focus from teaching to learning. Allyn & Bacon, Needham Heights.

For further information, visit  
<http://www.agron.iastate.edu/assessment/>