The educational effectiveness of our nursing programs is continually assessed in a number of ways. A general indicator of achievement for our pre-licensure students is their success in passing the national nurse licensing exam - NCLEX. Our pass rate for students is one of the highest in the state. Curricular learning outcomes are aligned with state standards so that students’ course performances are key indicators of success.

In addition to direct assessments of student learning, faculty course evaluations are also incorporated into the annual reviews. Student feedback about the courses is very important and they are encouraged to document their comments, suggestions, and recommendations. The comments are reviewed for relationship to need for curricular revisions, teaching methodology, and course sequencing in the programs. For example, additional nursing skills lab hours were extended for the pre-licensure master’s students so that they could have more individual “practice” time.

As a supplement to faculty evaluations, program faculty, alumni and current students are routinely surveyed regarding achievement of program outcomes, effectiveness of the outcomes, and appropriate preparation for the next stage of their careers. Results are shared with the various faculty teams, external surveyors, and alumni. Any significant trends are explored for potential curricular changes. Additionally, we survey employers of our graduates (new RNs) one year after graduation regarding major clinical practice indicators. The survey results provide an indication of how well our students were prepared to transition into clinical practice. Any areas that may be less than expected are used to follow up with faculty and employers.

External reviews are conducted by the California Board of Nursing for the pre-licensure master’s program and nurse practitioner programs. The most recent review, conducted March 2014, reported satisfactory results and no recommendations were given for improving program assessments. The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education reviews all master’s programs; for reviews conducted in 2014, no specific recommendations were made regarding improvements for learning outcome assessment. Several site visits for the remaining programs are scheduled during 2014-2015.