

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)

Why SLO?

- Provide the basis for program improvement
- Communicate instructional intent
- Increase awareness of learning for students
- Provide a common language for program participants
- Provide a basis for advising
- Can be shared in promotional materials
- Support accreditation and evaluation

Definition of a SLO

A statement that:

- describes specific behaviors that a student of the program should demonstrate after completing the program;
- focuses on the intended abilities, knowledge, values, and attitudes of the student after completion of the program.

3 Questions to consider when writing these statements:

- What does the student know? [Cognitive]
- What can the student do? [Psychomotor]
- What does the student care about? [Affective]

Writing Student Learning Outcomes

- Frame the learning outcome in terms of the program rather than individual courses or individual students (What will program graduates be able to do?).
- Use concrete action verbs (e.g., define, classify, operate, formulate) instead of passive verbs (e.g., be exposed to) or vague verbs (understand, know).
- Do not join elements in one statement that can not be assessed by a single method (e.g., Graduates will demonstrate knowledge of math fundamentals and gain competency in oral presentations--POOR).
- Focus on learning results and not on the learning process:
 - ~~Computer applications will be introduced in all core courses.~~ NO
 - Graduates will demonstrate proficiency in computer applications. YES
- State so that the outcome can be measured by more than one assessment method.
 - "...will demonstrate competence in applying math principles"

Checklist for Evaluating Student Learning Outcomes

- Aligned to mission and goal statements
- Clearly describe and define expected abilities, knowledge, values, and attitudes of the graduates of the program
- Simply stated
- Distinctive and specific to the program
- Stated so that more than a single method can be used to measure the outcome
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Organizing Student Learning Outcomes

Curriculum Map: A curriculum map can be used to show when each student learning outcome will be addressed in the program.

Key:

- I = introduced
- E = emphasized
- R = reinforced
- A = assessed

Example: A sample curriculum map for a program in Business Administration follows (core program goals and outcomes mapped)

Core Program Goals. Program graduates will possess:

1. Writing competencies
2. Critical thinking competencies
3. Quantitative reasoning competencies
4. Oral communications competencies
5. Computer Literacy
6. Values awareness

Content Specific Goals. Program graduates will possess:

1. Global Business competencies
2. Ac0 32n5]T2m[(1.)-60(Global -0 Tw -22.527 -P MCID 22 BDC BT1T1 1 Tf0 Tc 0 Tw 100

presentation							
Demonstrate professional demeanor in a presentation		I	E	RA		RA	
Speak clearly in a well-modulated tone		I	E	RA		RA	
Engage the audience		I	E	RA		RA	
Computer Literacy							
Demonstrate familiarity with information resources and technologies	I	E	RA				

