



Assessment Field Notes

Resource for Teaching

Plan: Articulating Learning Outcomes

Learning Outcomes Statements articulate what students will be able to demonstrate / produce / represent as a result of a course or academic program.

Effective Outcomes Statements

- Describe the destination, not the path
- Emphasize what students will be able to do, rather than what the course covers
- Rely on action verbs that describe (in observable terms) what students will be able to do
- Align with campus goals for student learning

Sample Program Learning Outcomes (Suskie, 2009)

Biology	Make accurate claims based on analysis of scientific data.
Economics	Develop graphic, spreadsheet, and financial analyses to support positions taken.
Chemistry	Design an experiment to test a chemical hypothesis or theory.
Communications	Systematically analyze a problem, research and propose solution, defend position, and refute opposing views.
Earth Science	Analyze the surface and subsurface (three- and four-dimensional) geological characteristics of landforms.
Theatre	Use voice, movement, and understanding of dramatic character and situation to affect an audience.

Terminology

Objectives

are the goals identified by faculty / program / institution which shape instruction, programs, curricula, and/or activities.

Outcomes

are statements that describe the knowledge, skills, and/or dispositions students are expected to demonstrate as the result of instruction, programs, curricula, and/or activities.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

reflect expectations for the demonstration of student knowledge, skills, and/or dispositions at the conclusion of a single course.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

reflect expectations for the demonstration of student knowledge, skills, and/or dispositions at the conclusion of a program.

Alignment Between Institutional, GE, Program, and Course Learning Outcomes

UC Davis Educational Objectives
 GE Core Literacy
 Program Learning Outcome
 Course Learning Outcome



Develop effective communication skills
 Literacy with words and images
 Students will write reports appropriate for industry audience
 Students will write an engineering project draft memo