

Writing Student Learning Outcomes

Student learning outcomes (SLOs):

- Help students learn more effectively.
- Make clear what students should expect from their educational experience.
- Encourage students to be intentional learners who direct and monitor their own learning.
- Help faculty design courses, curriculum, and programs.
- Make graduates' skills and knowledge clear to employers, accrediting agencies, etc.

Questions that student learning outcomes address:

- What knowledge, skills, abilities, and values should the ideal student graduating from our program demonstrate?
- How well does our program prepare students for careers, graduate school, professional study, and/or lifelong learning?
- What evidence can be used to demonstrate growth in students' knowledge, skills, abilities, and values as they progress through our program?

Program student learning outcomes:

- Align with school and institutional mission.
- Describe what students will learn, rather than what faculty will do.
- Are framed in terms of the program and not individual courses.
- Are observable and/or measurable.
- Rely on verbs that specify definite, observable behaviors (see [Bloom's Taxonomy](#)).
- Focus on the central abilities of the discipline. Incorporate or adapt professional organizations' outcome statements when they exist.
- Are collaboratively authored and collectively accepted.

Examples of student learning outcomes:

- Students analyze the grammar of music in varying historical eras and styles and demonstrate fluency in analytical practices. (Music BA)
- Students communicate effectively in writing using APA (American Psychological Association) style, the accepted publication style of the discipline. (Psychology BS)
- Students recognize and explain the major theoretical perspectives and key issues of debate in the academic study of religion. (Religious Studies BA)
- Students design and conduct a research project relevant to Urban Studies. (Urban Studies BA)