

Academic Senate – Dec. 3, 2020 – APPROVED

Overarching Program Learning Outcomes

I. Learning Outcomes of the Program (one set of outcomes that apply to all certificates and degrees)

Program Learning Outcomes are one set of general overarching statements showing what the program (all certificates and degrees) intends to accomplish. Program Learning Outcomes are one set of broad statements of the kinds of learning you hope students will achieve. They describe learning outcomes and concepts (what you want the student to learn) in general terms (e.g. clear communication, problem solving, etc.) Program Learning Outcomes are statements of long range intended outcomes of the program including all degrees and certificates. They describe the knowledge, skills, and values expected of students and should be consistent with the mission of the program and the institution.

II. Possible Approaches for Generating Program Learning Outcomes

- A. Describe the “perfect student” in your program in terms of his/her knowledge, abilities, values, and attitudes.
- B. Answer these questions; what does the student know (cognitive), what can the student do (performance/skills), what does the student care about (affective).
- C. Course outcomes inventory: review course syllabi, assignments, tests, and any additional materials and categorize the instructional materials into (i) recall or recognition of factual information, (ii) application and comprehension, or (iii) critical thinking and problem solving. From this inventory, determine the outcomes which are taught, and use them as a starting point for determining program outcomes.
- D. Often broad overarching outcome statements are quite similar from program to program and from institution to institution. Looking at what is in use elsewhere can reaffirm or serve as a starting point for brainstorming.

III. Structure of the overarching outcome statement

“To (action verb) (object) (modifiers)”

Examples:

- to pass students who are prepared for industry
- to adequately prepare students for four-year level transfer

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IV. Checklist for Overarching Program Learning Outcomes

1. Are the program outcomes consistent with the program mission?
2. Are your outcomes aligned with the program values?
3. Do your program outcomes describe desired performance, including passage of state and/or board exams, if required?

V. Adding to Curriqunet/META

Once you have formulated your program learning outcomes, add them to your degrees and certificates on Curriqunet/META. Be sure you include them in your program review too.

VI. Map Program Outcomes to Student Learning Outcomes and Institutional Learning Outcomes in Nuventive or current system.

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