



## Student learning outcomes

Training Subcommittee  
University Assessment Committee  
University of Toledo  
assessment@utoledo.edu



## Overview of assessment process

- Determine goals for degree program graduates
- Determine constituents that have stake in the success of your graduates
- Determine skills or learning outcomes students will need to achieve program goals
- Assessment of student learning outcomes and program goals
- Make changes based on assessment results and constituent input



## Student learning outcomes (SLOs)

- Student learning outcomes are skills students should possess by the time they complete degree program requirements
- SLOs should describe the skills required for graduates to achieve program goals
- Curriculum should be designed to insure students will achieve proficiency with these skills



## SLOs and coursework

- Must insure that curricular content will promote student proficiency in all SLOs
- Assign relevant SLOs to each required course
- Modify curriculum if some SLOs are not adequately covered by required courses



## Writing effective SLOs

- Learning outcomes focus on what students will be able to do with this course content
  - Written in terms of observable behavior
  - Measurable because you can observe them
  - Contain action verbs that describe observable behavior
- Learning outcomes are NOT a description of
  - Course content or topics
  - How a skill will be learned
  - What students will be asked to do during course



## Student learning outcome example

- This course will provide learners with an overview of historical perspectives of our world and help them develop an appreciation for the contribution of these various perspectives
- POOR EXAMPLE - focus is course content and not observable behavior
- Possible revision: Students will be able to compare and contrast historical perspectives of our world and describe the contributions of these historical perspectives



## Student learning outcome example

- Learners will demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively in both oral and written forms
- GOOD EXAMPLE - describes observable behavior that can be measured
- Poor revision: Students will learn how to effectively communicate in both oral and written forms



## Student learning outcome example

- Learners will be introduced to scientific reasoning skills
- POOR EXAMPLE – focus is course content and does not provide observable behavior
- Possible revision: Students will apply reasoning skills to analyze or solve scientific problems



## Action verbs in learning outcomes

- Describe
- List
- Recognize
- Critique
- Analyze
- Apply
- Explain
- Predict
- Present
- Evaluate
- Demonstrate
- Compare
- Contrast
- Perform
- Interpret
- Justify





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TOLEDO  
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## Acknowledgements & Resources

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- Material on composing effective SLOs obtained from Connie Shriner at COM
- See Learning Ventures website for her vodcasts and other resources
- Go to <http://www.utoledo.edu/coil> and click on Learning Ventures link in left menu panel
- Click Articles from the Center for Teaching and Learning link toward bottom of page