Student learning outcomes

Training Subcommittee
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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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Describe</th>
<th>Apply</th>
<th>Compare</th>
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<tr>
<td>List</td>
<td>Explain</td>
<td>Contrast</td>
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<td>Recognize</td>
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<td>Demonstrate</td>
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**LEARN**

**UNDERSTAND**
Acknowledgements & Resources

- 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