

## **Instructional Program Outcomes**

### **What are Instructional Program Outcomes?**

Instructional Program Level Student Learning Outcomes (POs) are clear, compact, measurable statements that describe what a student will know and be able to do at the completion of their program.

### **How many POs are recommended?**

Many programs use between 3 and 6 to represent the essential components of the program. In addition, programs should ensure that the number is manageable for assessment resources.

### **How to write a Program Outcome?**

Consider the ABCDs

#### **Actor**

In most cases, this is the student. SLOs are about the learning that students will demonstrate, not the courses, services, or experiences a program will provide. It is common practice to begin statements with “Students will be able to...”.

#### **Behavior**

What will the student be able to do to demonstrate the knowledge or learning? Strong SLOs use active verbs (See Bloom’s Taxonomy). Every SLO must have behavior(s) specified.

#### **Condition**

In what format or context will the student demonstrate the learning? For example, if students are demonstrating learning through a portfolio, then the portfolio is considered the condition.

#### **Degree**

This is the criteria or standard for performing the task well enough. For example, if you ask students to do a task with 80% accuracy, this would be the criteria for performing the task well enough.

Examples of clear, measurable program level SLOs:

1. Students will use technology to effectively analyze and communicate information.
2. Students will collect, analyze, and interpret data relevant to test a hypothesis.
3. Students will analyze and interpret texts using written or oral arguments with appropriate support.

#### **Avoid these words as the sole action verb of your statement**

know, learn, understand, appreciate, be aware of, explore, become familiar with, gain insight of, realize For Example: Students will develop an *appreciation* of French culture by critically *evaluating* historical literary works.

Reference: Smaldino, Lowther, & Russell, 2007