A GuideD

What are student learning outcomes?

Student learning outcomes or SLOs are statements that specify what students will know, be able to do or be able to demonstrate when they have completed or participated in a program/activity/course/project. Outcomes are usually expressed as knowledge, skills, attitudes or values.

What are the characteristics of good SLOs?

SLOs specify an action by the student that must be observable, measurable and able to be demonstrated!

How can SLOs help students and organizations?
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1. Will help departments understand how to better facilitate student learning.

2. Will provide departments with feedback (e.g. Are your services providing what they are supposed to beyond customer satisfaction? What skills are students learning? Are these the skills we want them to learn? Are these the skills we are teaching them?)

3. Will enable students to articulate what they are learning and have learned from attending Cañada College, inside and outside of the classroom.

4.2 Will help students be able to explain what they can do and what they know.

5. Will enable students to better understand where they can go to learn particular knowledge, skills, attitudes or values. Ultimately, will provide students with a map of where various learning opportunities are available throughout the college.

How to Get Started:

WHEN WRITING STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Focus on a smaller number of high priority outcomes   this will lower the burden of assessment and record-keeping.

2. Put learning outcomes in broad categories (i.e., Student   list of domains or subdomains).

3. Make outcomes as specific, focused and clear as possible   general outcomes will be hard to measure!

THE IMPORTANCE OF ACTION VERBS

Action verbs result in overt behavior that can be observed and measured. Sample action verbs are:

analyze, apply, argue, arrange, assemble, assess, calculate, categorize, choose, classify, compare, compile, compute, create, criticize, critique, defend, define, demonstrate, describe, design, develop, differentiate, discuss, distinguish, estimate, examine, explain, formulate, identify, illustrate, indicate, interpret, label, list,

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