

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES BRAINSTORMING GUIDE

BARTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

UNDERSTANDING PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

Program Learning Outcomes describe the knowledge, skills, abilities, and competencies students are expected to demonstrate upon completion of a program. They represent the most important learning faculty expect students to achieve throughout their program of study and communicate the capabilities and competencies expected of successful graduates.

Think in terms of the knowledge, skills, abilities, and competencies students should demonstrate upon completion of the program, whether they continue their education, enter the workforce, or pursue other goals. Program Learning Outcomes should reflect the distinctive learning expectations of the discipline and the abilities faculty believe are most important for long-term student success.

These learning expectations should be introduced, developed, and applied within the program's primary discipline-specific coursework, including the courses most commonly completed by students in the program. These courses provide opportunities for program faculty to guide curriculum, evaluate student learning, and implement improvement efforts.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

See the **Program Learning Outcomes FAQ** document for information regarding PLO review, course alignment, curriculum mapping, and implementation procedures.

DEVELOPING PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

Guiding Question: What knowledge, skills, abilities, and competencies should students demonstrate upon completion of the program?

TYPICAL COURSEWORK

List the courses most commonly completed by students in the program, in sequence when applicable:

SKILLS

List any skills suggested by the coursework:

CURRICULUM MAPPING

Review the coursework and mark where the skills are typically **Introduced (I)**, **Practiced (P)**, and **Applied (A)**:

DEFINE PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

Refine the list of skills into measurable outcomes using the definition above.

Program Learning Outcomes:

PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

Considering where the Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) are Introduced, Practiced, and Applied, identify how student learning could be assessed. Assessment methods should align with the outcome being evaluated.

Assessment:

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE: MATHEMATICS PROGRAM

SKILLS

1. Analyze quantitative data.
2. Apply mathematical models to solve problems.
3. Communicate mathematical and statistical findings.

CURRICULUM MAP

COURSE	Quantitative Analysis	Mathematical Modeling	Communication
Trigonometry	I	I	I
Elements of Statistics	P	P	I
Calculus I	P	P	P
Business and Economics Statistics II	P	A	P
Calculus II	A	A	A
Calculus III	A	A	A

I = Introduced, P = Practiced, A = Applied

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES (PLOs)

1. Analyze and interpret quantitative information using appropriate mathematical and statistical methods.
2. Apply mathematical models and quantitative reasoning to solve problems.
3. Communicate mathematical and statistical findings using appropriate representations and terminology.

PROGRAM ASSESSMENTS

Evidence will be collected from course embedded assessments, projects, examinations, and other program identified measures aligned to each Program Learning Outcome. Assessment results will be reviewed alongside the Introduced, Practiced, and Applied curriculum map to identify strengths, gaps, and opportunities for improvement in student learning.