

Student Learning Outcomes

A Student Learning Outcome (SLO) is a statement regarding knowledge, skills, and/or traits students should gain or enhance as a result of their engagement in an academic program. SLOs are the items that complete the sentence, “When they complete our program, students will be able to.....” A program does not need to state all possible student learning outcomes, but it should try to articulate those that are fundamental. A program may choose to rotate SLOs. Student learning outcomes should show progressive distinction between degree levels (BA, MA, PhD) in the same academic unit.

Frameworks for Learning Outcomes

In *Assessing Student Learning, A Common Sense Guide*, Linda Suskie (2009) explains how understanding and using frameworks can assist with the task of identifying and articulating learning outcomes.

The learning outcomes in various frameworks could be summarized into three categories:

- Knowledge and conceptual understanding - remembering, replicating a simple procedure, and defining, summarizing, and explaining concepts or phenomena.
- Thinking and other skills:
 - Application – capacity to use knowledge and understanding in a new context
 - Analysis – ability to identify elements, relationships, and principles of a complex process
 - Evaluation, Problem-Solving, and Decision-Making Skills – skills in making informed judgments
 - Synthesis – capacity to put together what one has learned in a new, original way
 - Creativity – abilities to be flexible, take intellectual risks, and be open-minded to new ideas
 - Critical Thinking – capacities to seek truth, clarity, and accuracy; distinguish facts from opinions
 - Information Literacy – broad set of skills reflecting today’s reality of research practice
 - Performance Skills – physical skills
 - Interpersonal Skills – abilities to listen, participate as an effective team member
- Attitudes, values, dispositions, and habits of mind – “personal and social responsibility skills”

(Suskie, 118 – 124)

Expressing Learning Outcomes

Student Learning Outcomes should be neither too broad nor too specific:

Too vague: Students will demonstrate information literacy skills.

Too specific: Students will be able to use the college’s online services to retrieve information.

Better: Students will locate information and evaluate it critically for its validity and appropriateness.

(Suskie, 130)

2018 Showcase

2016-2017 MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY

Student Learning Outcomes

SLO 1: Competence in assessment and diagnosis

Students will demonstrate competence in assessment and diagnosis of mental disorders and interpersonal and intrapersonal issues through a variety of measures.

SLO 2: Knowledge of diversity and cultural issues

Students will increase their understanding of culture, race, ethnicity, gender, SES, sexual orientation, physical and mental abilities, religious and spiritual values, and belief systems as it impacts working with families.

SLO 3: Conceptualize and apply family therapy models

Students will exhibit critical thinking skills in the conceptualization and application of family therapy models.

SLO 4: Behave with Integrity and Professionalism

Students will behave with integrity and professionalism in their interactions with colleagues, supervisors, clients, and faculty.

SLO 5: Identify and resolve ethical dilemmas related to the practice of MFT

Students will apply legal and ethical principles to clinical practice.

SLO 6: Participate in professional development activities, acknowledging the value of lifelong learning

Students will develop a professional identity by participating in professional activities and expressing an understanding of professional organizations.

Program Objective

O/O 6: Employment in MFT or Related Field

Students who seek employment will be employed in MFT, or to provide related clinical services, within 90 days of graduating.

2017 Showcase

2015-2016 BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION MBA

Student Learning Outcomes

SLO 1: Concepts and techniques in all functional areas

MBA graduates will demonstrate knowledge of business concepts and techniques in all relevant functional areas (e.g., managerial accounting, marketing, management, finance, and strategy).

SLO 2: Leadership and Team Building Skills

MBA graduates will demonstrate skills in leadership and team building.

SLO 3: Ethical and Cultural Awareness

MBA graduates will demonstrate the ability to identify and understand ethical and cultural perspectives.

SLO 4: Effective communication skills

MBA graduates will demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively.

SLO 5: Creative Critical Thinking Skills

MBA graduates will demonstrate creative critical thinking skills by integrating and applying appropriate concepts, technologies and decision making techniques to effectively evaluate and manage a business in a global environment.

Program Objective

O/O 6: International rankings of MBA program outcomes

International percentile rankings of MBA student knowledge at the conclusion of the MBA program will be used as the most externally valid Student Achievement Objective for the MBA program. MBA results on the MBA ETS Major Field Exam will be compared to the external results prepared by ETS to assess program achievement over time. This comparison for each year's MBA graduating cohort will show what our MBA students know at the conclusion of their program to more than 25,000 MBA students world-wide who take the same standardized exam at more than 260 institutions.

2015 Showcase

PUBLIC RELATIONS MS

Student Learning Outcomes

SLO 1: Mass Communication and Public Relations Theories

Students will demonstrate knowledge in mass communication and public relations theories and the ability to integrate these concepts, theories, and principles to public relations problems and opportunities.

SLO 2: Research Skills

Students will be able to gather and analyze information and relate conclusions to the public relations opportunity or problem at hand or apply the findings to organizational strategic planning and/or strategic communication planning.

SLO 3: Application of Skills - Campaign/Strategies

Students will demonstrate a thorough knowledge of mass communication and public relations theories and research by developing a comprehensive public relations campaign or providing in-depth analysis of public relations strategies.

SLO 4: Application of Skills - Internship/Project

Students will develop professional skills through major projects or supervised internships in various media settings.

Student Achievement Program Objective

O/O 5: Program Objective Outcome

The School of Mass Communication and Journalism will maintain an 80% graduation rate in the Public Relations MS program.

2014 Showcase

CHILD AND FAMILY STUDIES BS*

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students completing a B.S. degree in the Department of Child and Family Studies will demonstrate an understanding of basic theoretical principles and concepts related to individual, child, family and community systems, through written and oral communication.
 2. Students completing a B.S. degree in the Department of Child and Family Studies will apply critical thinking skills to societal problems impacting children, families and communities.
 3. Students completing a B.S. degree in the Department of Child and Family Studies will demonstrate values, attitudes and behaviors that reflect cultural sensitivity and social responsibility required for professional practice in human service and educational settings.
 4. Students completing a B.S. degree in the Department of Child and Family Studies will develop and implement prevention, intervention and/or educational programs based on individual/community needs assessments.
 5. Students completing a B.S. degree with an emphasis in Child Development will appropriately assess developmental domains (social, emotional, intellectual, and physical) of young children (PreK- K).
 6. Students completing a B.S. degree with an emphasis in Child Development will create and implement developmentally appropriate early childhood curricula.
 7. Students completing a B.S. degree with an emphasis in Child Life will appropriately assess the psychosocial and developmental needs of children and families during healthcare experiences. (Child Life Emphasis-Hattiesburg Campus Only)
 8. Students completing a B.S. degree with an emphasis in Child Life will plan and implement evidence-based child life practices for children and families during their healthcare experiences. (Child Life Emphasis-Hattiesburg Campus Only)
 9. Students completing a B.S. degree with an emphasis in Family Relations will demonstrate professional behaviors necessary for success as an entry level child and family professional.
 10. Students completing a B.S. degree with an emphasis in Family Relations will apply knowledge and skills necessary for success in future graduate study or employment as an entry level child and family service professional.
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