

PROGRAM-LEVEL SLO CHECK-UP

Are Your Program-Level Student Learning Outcomes S M A R T ?

S- Student Focused:

Do they ask what students will do, know, or value? Not what will we teach?

Teacher focused:

Students will be exposed to and receive information on theory, historical background, and core concepts.

Student focused example:

Students will define and describe the 10 core concepts of.....

M- Measurable:

Do they ask for outcomes that can be seen and assessed in student work?

Vague SLO's are difficult to measure.

Vague:

Students should know the historically important systems of psychology.

Clearer example:

Students should be able to recognize and articulate the foundational assumptions and central ideas of the historically important systems of psychology.

A- Action Oriented:

Do they use action verbs? (Blooms Taxonomy)- analyze, apply, argue, compare, classify, develop, distinguish, list, label, interpret, organize, reproduce, review, etc.

Avoid the words: understand, appreciate, become aware of, become familiar with, etc.

Not Action Oriented:

Students completing the undergraduate program in Engineering will understand basic engineering principles.

Action Oriented example:

Students will be able to apply and demonstrate the principles of engineering design in the process of completing a design addressing a hypothetical engineering need.

R- Reasonable:

Are they appropriate for the level of the program? (ie. Can the students really be expected to do that when they finish this program?)

Questionable example:

Upon completion of the degree, students should understand all aspects of human development theory.

CAN ANYONE REALLY DO THAT?

More reasonable:

Upon completion of the degree, students should be able to summarize the major theories of human development.

T- Time Specific:

Is there a clear expectation of when the students will be able to do, know, or value these things?

If we say "upon completion of this program," when do we really find out?

Must be made clear in tools and targets- In what assignment, exam questions, presentation, etc will students demonstrate that they know or can do this?

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