

Writing Program Learning Outcomes (or goals or objectives) *adapted from*
http://www.fullerton.edu/assessment/sla_resources

Program learning outcomes describe the knowledge, skills and/or attitudes and values that a student will have upon **completing a degree program**.

- **Knowledge:** fundamental cognitive content, core concepts or questions, basic principles of inquiry, a broad history, and/or varied disciplinary techniques.
- **Skills:** capacity for applying basic knowledge, analyzing and synthesizing information, assessing the value of information, communicating effectively, and collaborating.
- **Attitudes & values:** affective states, personal/professional/social values, and ethical principles.

PLOs should be

- aligned with the program mission
- specific, clear, and concise
- measureable (assessable)
- realistic both in number (5-7) and in scope
- focus on what students will learn/be able to do

Measurable PLOs: PLOs should be written in such a way that it is easy to imagine a project, report, exam, quiz, survey, or other piece of student work that could be use to assess how well a student has learned the PLO. This is typically achievable by using **active verbs** to describe the PLO, such as explain, analyze, or design, rather than passive verbs such as appreciate, become familiar with, or understand.

Examples of PLOs that are too general and difficult to measure	PLOs that are getting more specific or measurable	Examples of Specific, Measureable PLOs
Students will appreciate the benefits of exercise science.	Students will appreciate exercise as a stress reduction tool.	Students will explain how the science of exercise affects stress.
Students will understand the scientific method.	Students will apply the scientific method in problem solving.	Students will design a grounded research study using the scientific method.
Students will become familiar with correct grammar and literary devices.	Students will demonstrate the use of correct grammar and various literary devices.	Students will demonstrate the use of correct grammar and various literary devices in creating an essay.
Students will develop problem-solving and conflict resolution skills.	Students will demonstrate critical thinking skills, such as problem solving as it relates to social issues.	Students will analyze and respond to arguments about racial discrimination.