

# Assessment Definitions

## **Assessment of Student Learning**

*Definition:* An ongoing process designed to monitor and improve student learning. Sometimes referred to as assurance of learning.

## **Course Embedded**

*Definition:* Using student work that is already part of a course or courses in the program.

## **Program Mission**

*Definition:* A holistic vision of the values and philosophy of the program. The program mission needs to be consistent with campus and college missions. The overall question that the mission statement should answer is: What is the overall unique purpose of this program?

## **Student Learning Goal**

*Definition:* General statement about knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values that are expected in graduates from the program

*Examples:* Students know basic biological concepts. Students can use appropriate technology tools. Students respect the professional code of ethics for accountants.

## **Student Learning Outcome**

*Definition:* Clear concise statement that describes how the students demonstrate their mastery of program learning goals (what does the student do, know, or value).

## **Course Alignment Matrix**

*Definition:* A two- dimensional grid showing learning outcomes by course. Within each box on the grid you indicate where (in what course) each of the learning outcomes are introduced, practiced, or where students demonstrate mastery.

## **Rubric**

*Definition:* A document that describes how the program assessment will be done. It describes who does what, when, and also includes how and when each student learning outcome is measured, how results will be used, who will reflect on results, and how the measures will be executed.

## ***Student Learning Outcome Statements Defined***

Student Learning Outcome (SLO) Statements take the program learning goals and focus on how students can demonstrate that the goals are being met. In other words, SLOs answer the question: how can graduates from this program demonstrate they have the needed/stated knowledge, skills, and/or values. SLOs are clear, concise statements that describe how students can demonstrate their mastery of program learning goals. Each

student learning outcome statement must be measurable. Measures are applied to student work and may include: student assignments, work samples, tests, etc. measuring student ability/skill, knowledge, or attitude/value.

### **Criteria for Development**

The following criteria can be used to develop and evaluate student learning outcome statements:

- **Student Perspective:** statement focus on what students learn not on what the course covers
- **Clarity:** statement is concise and understandable by all interested groups including students, parents, faculty and others specific to the program.
- **Potentially observable and/or measurable:** statement describes how students can demonstrate that they have the knowledge, skills and/or attitudes/values specified in the goals.

*Examples:*

**Knowledge:** Students can distinguish between science and pseudo-science.

**Skill:** Graduates can locate appropriate sources by searching electronic and traditional databases.

**Value:** Graduates appreciate the need to vary counseling services to people who are different from themselves with respect to gender, age, culture, sexual orientation and other significant characteristics.