

Planning and Assessment Definitions

Outcome – Based on a systemic plan, this is the aim of an area (whether a program/department outcome or a student learning outcome).

Department Outcomes – What the department is doing to display efficacy and to further operations and tasks. Examples would include an operational aspect of an office/department or a task or process that supports the operational aspect of an office/department.

Program Outcomes – What the program is doing to further student learning and display efficacy. Examples would include minimum expected enrollment (averaged over multiple years to set improvement plans), retention, graduation rates, job placement rates, knowledge on MFAT/Capstone, etc. These could also apply to Deans in regards to their Colleges/Schools, whereby they could track professional development of faculty or the creation of new programs, etc.

Student Learning Outcomes – The knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes that a program expects a student to obtain through study in the program. Essentially, one should be able to see a student walk across the stage at graduation and know that the student receiving the degree has obtained the learning outcomes that were defined in the program.

Course Outcomes – Provided at the course level and set by the course creator, these outcomes should be based on what the student should gain from the course. These can be reflective of student learning outcomes at the program level, but are not necessarily the same.

Core Outcomes – Student Learning Outcomes and Course Outcomes for core courses are the same, whereby all courses will use some Student Learning Outcomes set at the General Education (Core) level. These are defined in the Core Curriculum Outcomes document.

Measure – A tool used to determine if an area has met the defined outcome. Below are some examples of the types of measures used:

Direct measures – objective measures of the area's accomplishments or measures of knowledge/ability the student/customer will receive upon being provided with the area's services. Examples may include pre-test/post-test results, performance assessment, papers/essays, presentations, trend rates, benchmarking with peers, etc.

Indirect measures – subjective measures of beliefs and attitudes. Most satisfaction-oriented outcomes will have an indirect measure. Examples include questionnaires, surveys of student's perceptions (such as questions from the Course Evaluation), Custom Student Questionnaires, senior surveys, etc.