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). Specific Outcomes are defined as …

> **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 rates, graduation rates, job placement rates, knowledge on MFAT/Capstone, etc. These could also apply to Deans regarding their Colleges/Schools, such as tracking professional development of faculty, 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 by the program.

> **Course Outcomes** – Provided at the *course* level and set by the Course Owner, 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. These should be specific to the course and should consider how the course "fits in" with the program overall.

> **Core Outcomes** – *Student Learning Outcomes* for core courses will use some of the Student Learning Outcomes set at the General Education (Core) level. These are defined in the Core Curriculum Outcomes document. *Course Outcomes* for these courses should be set by the Course Owner. Contact Martha Liendo or your representative on CCAWG for more information.

Measure – A tool or artifact used to determine if an area has met the defined outcome. Generally, Measures fall into one of two categories:

> **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 assessments, 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 Course Evaluations), Custom Student Questionnaires, senior surveys, etc.

Criterion for Success – *(within Weave)* The threshold of acceptability for the Measure, which will both determine success and assist in developing plans for improvement. The criterion should be based on historical trends or national standards. Typically, these are created as percentages.

Planning and Assessment Definitions

Regarding the use of Student Learning Outcomes and Course Outcomes on the syllabus, the following table can be used. For more information, please contact the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment.

Required Courses for the Major	Core Courses	"Other" Courses
Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)		
The SLOs for courses in the Major should be those identified for Annual Assessment. These are the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes that a program expects a student to obtain through study in the program.	SLOs for core courses will use some of the Student Learning Outcomes set at the General Education (Core) level. These are defined in the Core Curriculum Outcomes document.	The Course Owner should determine SLOs based on the course structure and how the course "leads" to other courses (SPAN 1000 to SPAN 2000, for example). SLOs from the Major or Gen. Ed. may apply, in some cases.
Course Outcomes		
Course Outcomes should be based on what the student should gain from the course. These can be reflective of student learning outcomes but are not necessarily the same.	Course Outcomes for Core courses can be set by the Course Owner. They should be should be based on what the student should gain from the course.	Course Outcomes should be based on what the student should gain from the course.