

Curriculum Report: Outcome Measures
December 3, 2002
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The Curriculum Committee has been working to write and include measurable Learning Outcomes as part of our Course Outlines. The impetus for this project has come from the new Accreditation Standards that have been set, but the process has given us the opportunity to review and improve our Course Outlines. Originally, members of the Curriculum Committee were asked to write Measurable Learning Outcomes for one “primary” GE course and to complete a Course Matrix, which aligned course Learning Objectives with Institutional Learning Outcomes. Through questions and discussion at several meetings, we have developed a more meaningful and useful model, which will be further explored at our next meeting.

At present, the task for each department is to submit a revised course outline for one GE course using the following guidelines:

1. Assess current “Goals Expected of the Student at the End of the Semester”.
 - Do they reflect the weekly performance objectives included in the outline?
 - Are they measurable?
 - Do they include all the outcomes you wish to measure? (Too many vs. too few?)
2. Rewrite course objectives as necessary.
 - For each objective, use language that describes a measurable activity.
 - Focus on a single learning outcome for each objective.
3. Assign each Learning Outcome to one or more Institutional Learning Outcome as appropriate, listing in order of importance.
4. Describe the means you will use to measure the activity.

Curriculum Committee members have agreed to complete this task by our December 9th meeting. At that time, we will discuss the pros and cons of using this format and suggest any possible improvements. Beginning next semester, all courses submitted to the Curriculum Committee for approval will be required to use the new form. In addition, the Curriculum Committee will need to establish a timeline for the conversion of all GE courses to this format in anticipation of our next Accreditation.

(An example of the new Course Outline form is completed on the reverse.)