

ACADEMIC PROGRAM UNITS – PHASE I

# QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

*(Abbreviated)*

to

Writing Learning Outcomes

Student Learning Outcomes are statements that specify what students will know, appreciate, be able to do or be able to demonstrate when they have participated in or completed a course or program. SLO's specify an action by the student that must be observable, measurable and able to be demonstrated.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) are specific to a discipline or department that offers degrees or certificates. One or more course SLOs are mapped to a PLO. For example, Mathematical Sciences could have a PLO of "Students can solve basic linear equations." For the Algebra 101 course, two course SLOs could be related to and aligned to this PLO. One SLO calls for students to master solving linear equations with one variable and another SLO calls for students to master finding the intercept.

Every discipline/department determines the Mastery Levels used to gauge student achievement; there is no university-wide directive. Mastery Levels are essentially rubrics.

An example Mastery Levels that could be defined on a rubric are:

- EXEMPLARY
- EXCEEDS STANDARDS
- STANDARD
- BELOW STANDARD
- NO PROFICIENCY

## HOW TO DEVELOP LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learning Outcomes should include the following segments:

### Student Learning Outcome

1. Students

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2. Performance Verb or Action

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3. Learning Outcome

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4. Performance Target

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5. Time Frame Achieved or Assessed

Just Getting Started? Here's a template to follow:

[1. Students] will [2. Performance Verb/Action] [3. Learning Outcome] [4. Performance Target] [5. Time Achieved/Assessed].

Examples:

[1. Students enrolled in GREK 221] will [2. improve] [3. their ability to recall the definition of selected Greek words used 200 times or more in biblical literature] [4. by 20%] [5. during the 2017-2018 academic year].

[1. Students] will [2. increase] [3. their ability to persuade their audience] [4. by a Likert scale point value of .5] [5. during the 2016 Spring academic term].

[1. Students] will [2. raise] [3. their ability to recognize the warning signs of alcohol abuse] [4. to a minimum of 5 signs] [5. after attending Students at Risk training]. (Department of Student Health Services)