

Antelope Valley College

Student Learning Outcomes

Glossary

Academic Cycle- Academic cycle refers to the assessment cycle documented in WEAVEonline that begins in August of a given year and continues through August of the following year.

Affective Outcomes- Affective outcomes relate to the development of values, attitudes, and behaviors.

Alignment- Alignment is the process of analyzing how explicit criteria line up or build upon one another within a particular learning pathway. When dealing with outcomes and assessment, it is important to determine that the course outcomes align or match up with program outcomes; that institutional outcomes align with the college mission and vision. In student services, alignment of services align with such areas as financial aid deadlines and instructional calendars.

Assessment- Assessment is the evaluation of effectiveness criteria.

Assessment Cycle- Assessment cycle refers to the process called “closing the loop.”

Closing the Loop- Closing the loop refers to the use of assessment results to improve student learning through collegial dialogue informed by the results of student services, instructional learning, or operational outcome assessment. It is part of the continuous cycle of collecting assessment results, evaluating them, using the evaluations to identify actions that will improve student learning, implementing those actions, and then cycling back to collecting assessment results.

Cognitive Outcomes- Cognitive outcomes relate to the development of mental processes such as memory, comprehension, evaluation, reasoning, analysis, calculation, and planning.

College Operations- College operations refers to indirect support services to the campus such as maintenance and operations, auxiliary services, budget and accounting, information technology services, research and planning, police and safety, and marketing.

Continuous Improvement- Continuous improvement reflects an on-going, cyclical process to identify evidence and implement incremental changes to improve student learning.

Critical Thinking- "Critical thinking is the intellectually disciplined process of actively and skillfully conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and/or evaluating information gathered from, or generated by, observation, experience, reflection, reasoning, or communication, as a guide to belief and action. In its exemplary form, it is based on universal intellectual values that transcend subject matter divisions: clarity, accuracy, precision, consistency, relevance, sound evidence, good reasons, depth, breadth, and fairness."

A statement by Michael Scriven & Richard Paul
{presented at the 8th Annual International Conference on Critical Thinking and
Education Reform, Summer 1987}.

[Click here for a more complete definition of critical thinking.](#)

Culture of Evidence- The phrase "culture of evidence" refers to an institutional culture that supports and integrates research, data analysis, evaluation, and planned change as a result of assessment to inform decision-making (Pacheco, 1999)⁵. A culture of evidence is characterized by the generation, analysis and valuing of quantitative and qualitative data in decision making.

Curriculum Mapping- Curriculum mapping supports unified coordination of ILOs, PLOs, and coursework, provides visual representation of course alignment within a program, and promotes increased understanding of the relationship between programs and the institution's mission.

Effectiveness Criteria- Effectiveness criteria is a standard of judgment that assesses the "added value" based on evidence.

Evidence of Program and Institutional Performance- Program or institutional evidence includes quantitative or qualitative, direct or indirect data that provide information concerning the extent to which an institution meets the goals it has established and publicized to its stakeholders.

General Education (G.E.) Program Learning Outcomes- General Education PLOs are closely related to ILOs and are the skills and abilities a student is expected to be able to use after completing a general education course of study. This knowledge is used when students evaluate themselves and appreciate the physical environment, culture, and society in which they live.

Institutional Learning Outcomes- Institutional Learning Outcomes are observable characteristics that ensure students will succeed through the assessment of the goals as outlined in the college mission.

Operational Outcomes (OOs)- Operational Outcomes are overarching specific observable characteristics developed by staff in the institution's non-instructional

and operations areas that allow them to determine or demonstrate evidence that learning has occurred as a result of a specific program, activity, or support.

Program- An educational or instructional program is an organized sequence of courses leading to a defined objective, a degree, a certificate, a diploma, a license, or transfer to another institution of higher education.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)- Program Learning Outcomes are overarching specific observable characteristics developed by faculty and staff that allow them to determine or demonstrate evidence that learning has occurred as a result of a specific course of study, activity, or service.

Program Review- Program Review ensures that every program and service area will experience a systematic evaluation cycle consisting of a self-evaluation process, which includes employee, student, and community evaluation, and an institutionally based peer-team review. The information gathered during this process will provide a basis for cooperative and informed decision-making regarding the future of the institution.

Psychomotor Outcomes- Psychomotor outcomes relate to the development of specific motor skills and movement functions along with related mental processes.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)- Student Learning Outcomes are overarching specific observable characteristics developed by faculty that allow them to determine or demonstrate evidence that learning has occurred as a result of a specific course, program, activity, or process.

Student Services- Student Services is a comprehensive system of programs and opportunities that enhance student success and facilitate achievement of education, career, and life goals.

WEAVEonline- WEAVEonline is a software application that allows the institution to develop and maintain continuous improvement processes for academic, service, and administrative structures. WEAVE serves as a repository for assessment data and guides the alignment of assessment, planning, budgeting, and institutional priorities.

For additional definitions, please refer to—Academic Senate for California Community Colleges: Glossary of Student Learning Outcomes:

<http://www.avc.edu/administration/organizations/slo/documents/SLO-Glossary-2010.pdf>