

Communicating SLOs to Students

Faculty are responsible for the development and assessment of student learning outcomes (SLOs) within their discipline. SLOs are the specific observable or measureable results expected subsequent to a learning experience and provide evidence that learning occurred as a result of a specified course, program activity, or process.

In addition to developing and assessing SLOs, faculty are responsible to communicate the purpose and goals of these SLOs to students. What do students need to know about SLOs?

Students need to know:

- **Approved course-specific SLOs and how they are assessed,**
- **How SLO assessment results are being used to improve the course and/or corresponding program effectiveness,**
- **SLOs and their assessments are used only to evaluate the effectiveness of a course or program, AND**
- **SLOs are NOT used to determine an individual student's performance in the course or program.**

Faculty choose how to best communicate SLO information to their students, using one of the following recommended practices:

- **Integrate SLOs on the course syllabus, or**
- **Include SLOs as a separate attachment to the course syllabus, or**
- **Post SLOs in course specific online files (Blackboard, myAVC, etc.)**

Regardless of the method you select to communicate to students, please provide an opportunity for student dialog in order to facilitate student engagement in the process. Communication of SLOs to students should occur within the first week of the course, the same time frame in which faculty are required to provide a course syllabus.

Suggestions to frame student discussion of SLOs:

- **SLOs are broad, measureable goals of student learning that are overarching outcomes for a course or program.**
- **SLOs will be used by faculty and college staff to analyze student learning needs, to enhance student services, to evaluate course and program effectiveness, and to influence decisions regarding college planning and operations.**
- **SLOs are not course objectives.**

If you need further information, please view the samples posted on the SLO web page. (<http://www.avc.edu/administration/organizations/slo/documents.html>)