

# Student Success' Learning Outcomes

## 2009-10

### Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes are statements that specify what learners, our students, will know or be able to do as a result of a given activity. Outcomes are usually expressed as knowledge, skills, or attitudes. Outcomes should generally take the form of: "The student will be able to..."

### The Division's Learning Outcomes

During the 2008-09 academic year, the Division's Assessment Council drafted a series of learning outcomes. These outcomes, presented and approved by Vice President Bouchard in June, provide the foundation for programs, activities and services that we provide our students across the Division.

*Students will be able to...*

1. Make healthy life choices that reflect a balance of intellectual, emotional, physical, professional, social, and spiritual well-being.
2. Respect the diversity of our community as well as the individuality of each member.
3. Engage in the life of the university and other communities as participants and leaders.
4. Develop goals and identify resources needed for their attainment.
5. Communicate effectively, appropriately address and resolve challenges, and manage conflict.

### Unit Learning Outcomes

As part of their annual report, each unit across the Division was charged with drafting at least one (but not more than three) unit-specific learning outcomes. At least one, if not all, should be consistent with the Division's outcomes, listed above. In cases where the unit has previously developed a series of outcomes, the unit should ensure that those learning outcomes do not conflict with the Division's outcomes.

For each unit-specific learning outcome, units are encouraged to do one of the following:

- A) Craft a learning outcome that is unique to the unit's services and activities but consistent with any ONE of the Division's learning outcomes, stated above;

*-or-*

- B) Adopt a Divisional learning outcome, as stated above, in its entirety or in part.

**NOTE:** Units that have previously developed and utilize broadly accepted learning outcomes statements (i.e.: Residential Life) need only provide rationale for the congruence of the unit's standing learning outcomes and the Division's learning outcomes.

### Programming with Learning Outcomes in Mind

By developing or adopting a learning outcome for the 2009-10 academic year, units will:

- A) Think about existing programs, activities and services in a manner that advances the desired learning outcome;

### Programming with Learning Outcomes in Mind (cont.)

- B) When developing new programs, activities and services, be mindful that the desired learning outcome is consistent with said learning outcome;
- C) Take an inventory of all programs, activities and services that expose our students to said learning outcome to be included as part of the Division's learning outcomes report at the conclusion of the 2009-10 academic year.

### Evaluating the Efficacy of Learning Outcomes

A stated learning outcome by itself does little to advance our student's individual learning and development. Thus, providing programs, activities and services that work to expose students to a desired learning outcome is a critically important function that the unit carries on during the course of the year. In order to fully realize the benefit of a desired learning outcome, evaluative measures should be put in place and might include the following:

- A) Surveys following individual programs or activities;
- B) Focus groups of students having participated in programs or activities;
- C) Surveys of students who have utilized regular services provided by the unit;
- D) Anecdotal information gathered by staff through individual student interaction.

### Assistance in Crafting Unit Learning Outcomes

As always, should your unit require assistance in developing a learning outcome for the upcoming academic year, the Vice President's Office is prepared to provide any additional guidance or resources required to ensure the smoothest possible introduction of a learning outcome related to your unit's programs, activities or services. Please contact Michael Christakis at [mchristakis@uamail.albany.edu](mailto:mchristakis@uamail.albany.edu) or at 518-956-8140.