

Course Objectives or Major Learning Objectives (MLOs): Statements that identify the knowledge, skills, or attitudes that students will be able to demonstrate, represent, or produce as a result of their educational experience in a given course. Objectives are small steps that lead toward a goal, for instance the discrete course content that faculty cover within a discipline. Objectives are usually more numerous and create a framework for the overarching program learning outcomes which address synthesizing, evaluating and analyzing many of the objectives.

Crosswalk: The process of cross referencing program learning outcomes to general education outcomes to indicate the alignment of a program learning outcome with a general education or core competency.

General Education Student Learning Outcomes (Gen Ed Outcomes): The knowledge, skills, or attitudes a student is expected to be able to demonstrate following a program of courses designed to provide the student with a common core of knowledge consistent with a liberally educated or literate citizen. Some colleges refer to these as core competencies, while others consider general education a program. PHSC recognizes Gen Ed outcomes as core competencies for all programs with the use of a crosswalk and considers general education outcomes a program through the Associate in Arts degree.

Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs): The knowledge, skills, or attitudes a student is expected to leave an institution with as a result of a student's total experience. Because general education outcomes represent a common core of outcomes for the majority of students transferring or receiving degrees, some but not all, institutions equate these with ILO's. This equality between ILOs and Gen Ed outcomes allows for co-curricular experiences and assessments. ILOs may also differ from Gen Ed outcomes in that institutional outcomes may include outcomes relating to institutional effectiveness (degrees, transfers, productivity, etc.) in addition to learning outcomes. Descriptions of ILOs should include instructional and student service outcomes.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs): Statements that identify the knowledge, skills, or attitudes that students will be able to demonstrate, represent, or produce as a result of their educational experience in a given program.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs): Statements that identify the knowledge, skills, or attitudes that students will be able to demonstrate, represent, or produce as a result of a given educational experience. There are three levels of student learning outcomes: course, program, and institution.

*Objective and Outcome are often used interchangeably.

Adapted from: [SLO Terminology Glossary](#) (*pdf* file, from the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, posted by Shasta College) and [Definitions/Glossary](#), from the University of Hawaii at Manoa