

The Four Essentials of a Student Learning Outcome

- **Student-centered:** an outcome should be framed in terms of what the student will be able to know and do and feel, rather than what or how the instructor will teach.
- **Meaningful:** an outcome should express knowledge, a skill, or an attitude that the student can take with them and use in life, and that has enduring meaning. The primary goal is for the student to make meaning of “big ideas” and be able to transfer their learning.
- **Clear and focused:** an outcome should be: expressed in simple language; targeted towards one big understanding, or skill, or attitude; geared towards higher order thinking.
- **Observable or quantifiable:** an outcome must be able to be measured, **directly** (from a product or performance that demonstrates that learning has taken place) or **indirectly** (from a product or performance that implies that learning has taken place).

Student Learning Outcomes Checklist

1. Does the outcome support the program's purpose?	Yes	No
2. Does the outcome describe what the program intends for students to know (cognition), do (skill, behavior, performance), or feel/think (affect, attitude)?	Yes	No
3. Is the outcome student-centered?	Yes	No
4. Is the outcome meaningful?	Yes	No
5. Is the outcome clear and focused?	Yes	No
6. Is the outcome observable or quantifiable?	Yes	No
7. Can you create an activity to enable students to demonstrate the outcome?	Yes	No
8. Can the outcome be used to make decisions on how to improve the program?	Yes	No