

## TIPSHEET: Writing or Revising Course Learning Outcomes

The Course Learning Outcomes describe clearly what learners will know and be able to do at the end of a course.

Answers the question – “What should the student be able to **demonstrate** by the **end** of this course?”

### *Getting Started*

Identify how your course contributes to the Program Learning Outcomes PLOs or how your course contributes to the General Education Themes (Gen Ed courses only).

Determine the level that is appropriate for the learners at this point in the program.

### *Principles of Good Learning Outcomes*

Good learning outcomes:

- Are clearly stated.
- Are measurable.
- Are performance based and observable e.g. prepare, calculate, identify, describe, discuss, compare, create, evaluate.
- Include a performance verb, context and criterion.
  - Verbs to avoid – know, understand, (they are too vague and cannot be measured) or demonstrate (repeated in stem statement)

#### Performance, Context, Criterion

Performance verb	Context/Learning Statement	Criterion/Standard
Active verb	Describes what they will do, the type of learning	Describes what is an acceptable performance

Good learning outcomes cont'd:

- Represent integration of learning.
- Aim for 5-7 per course (for a 42 hr course).
- Align with course description.
- Align to the Program Learning Outcomes or General Education Themes.
- Describe learning that is fully evaluated by the end of the course.

### Examples

Performance verb	Context/Learning Statement	Criterion/Standard
Perform...	...a comprehensive physical assessment of body systems...	...in a systemic, accurate and effective manner.
Apply...	...theoretical concepts of growth and development...	...when working with individuals and families in the community.
Complete...	...a variety of accounting transactions...	...using the double entry accounting system.