

# Guam Community College

## SLO Writing Workbook



**\* The WASC accreditation report indicates that GCC needs to develop student learning outcomes (SLOs) for all existing courses and programs. SLOs will eventually be published in the program/course documents, syllabus, and catalogue so that students are aware of the most important things they will be able to do by the completion of their courses or program. Members of the Curriculum Committee used Cabrillo College's Student Learning Outcomes and Instructional Planning Guide as an example to help design this workbook.**

## Definition of an SLO – Program/Course Level

Student learning outcomes (SLOs) at the course and program levels describe the 3 to 5 main things that a student will have attained by the end of a course or program. Think about how you would summarize what is on your syllabus on the very first day of class. An SLO describes the:

- ❖ Knowledge
- ❖ Skills
- ❖ Abilities
- ❖ Attitudes

that students will attain by the end of the semester or program. The focus is on what students can DO with what they have learned and this outcome should be able to be evaluated in some way.

## SLOs verses Intended learning Outcomes (previously Course Competencies)

SLOs are different from intended learning outcomes or course competencies in that they describe the 3 - 5 most important knowledge, skills, abilities or attitudes that a student can demonstrate by the end of the course or program. The intended learning outcomes are more specifically written and might serve as the building blocks for attainment of the SLOs.

Think of the big picture. SLOs:

- ❖ Describe the broadest goals for the course of program (ones that require higher-level thinking).
- ❖ Require students to synthesize many discreet skills or areas of content.
- ❖ Ask students to produce something (papers, projects, portfolios, demonstrations, exams).
- ❖ Are able to be evaluated/assessed in some way.

## Sample SLOs – Program & Course Level

### SLOs for AS in Automotive Technology

Upon completion of this program, students will be able to:

- identify component parts and their individual relationships to the functioning of the engine, and to the entire automobile.
- diagnose, adjust, repair and replace automotive components.
- seek ways to improve customer service and to have integrity in customer relations.

### SLOs for AS in Accounting

Upon completion of this program, students will be able to:

- apply accounting theory and principles to accounting procedures and practices for either financial and/or hospitality accounting systems..
- develop dispositions and values suitable to the practice of accounting in the real world.
- demonstrate computer-based knowledge of the accounting cycle and the ability to perform necessary procedures at each step of the cycle for various types of business.

### SLOs for AA in Culinary Arts

Upon completion of this program, students will be able to:

- perform skills and tasks associated with the culinary arts.
- demonstrate knowledge in culinary terms, methods and applications.
- perform skills under the pressures associated with the culinary field.

### SLOs for Certificate in Practical Nursing Program

Upon completion of this program, students will be able to:

- be eligible for and prepared to take the NCLEX-PN exam in order to become LPNs or to enter more advanced degree nursing programs.
- apply the clinical problem-solving process (Nursing Process) and critical thinking skills within the scope of an LPN.

### SLO for Certificate in Sign Language Interpreting

Upon completion of this program, students will be able to:

- demonstrate fluency in American Sign Language, interpreting, and transliterating.

### SLO for NU101c Nursing Assisting Clinical

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- apply nursing assistant skills and concepts when providing basic patient care in clinical settings by executing proper procedural steps to insure safe patient care.

### SLO for CD292 ECE Practicum

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- develop and implement an integrative unit that includes the developmental domains of language, social/emotional, physical, and cognitive.

### SLO for SI130 and VESI050 Applied Anatomy & Physiology

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- integrate the knowledge learned about the human body, its structure and functions in the comprehension of various diseases.

### SLOs for WE105 Oxy-Acetylene Welding

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- set correct pressures on all the gases in relation to the type of function to be performed.
- demonstrate the safety procedures for handling and mixing of the gases.

## Writing SLOs

- 1. In one sentence describe one major piece of knowledge, skill, ability or attitude a student will have ideally gained by the end of your course or program.**
- 2. Use action verbs such as apply, synthesize, demonstrate, construct, evaluate, differentiate, discuss, etc. (see Bloom's Taxonomy for more).**
- 3. Write it in a language students will understand.**
- 4. Make sure it can be assessed or tested.**
- 5. For most courses and programs there should be no more than six SLOs. Remember they are the major skills, knowledge, or attitudes a student will be able to demonstrate. Save the more detailed ones for the intended learning outcomes.**

\* Note that it is sometimes easier to think first about the major products or assignments you require in a course/program and work backwards from there describing in one sentence what the students are being asked to do in that assignment.

\* Also, remember that attitudes are difficult to assess. Ask if attitude is crucial to the success in a course. Maybe it is important by the end of the program.

**Course or Program Name** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
<b>In one sentence describe a major piece of knowledge, skill, ability, or attitude that students can demonstrate by the end of the course or program.</b>	<b>List the major assignment, project, or test used to demonstrate or apply the outcome.</b>

## Checklist for Writing SLOs

Now that you've written some SLOs show them to other instructors in your department and outside of it to see if what you've written is understandable.

- ✓ Action verbs are used in describing the SLO.
- ✓ It is written in a way that describes the big picture rather than a small detail.
- ✓ It describes what students will be able to do after they successfully complete a course and/or program.
- ✓ The SLO represents a major outcome of the course or program.

\* For further assistance please contact a member of the Curriculum Committee. We hope this workbook has made writing SLOs a little easier.

