

Ohlone College
SLO–A Operational Definitions

Faculty at Ohlone College have developed operative definitions of the terms: assessment, goals, student learning outcomes, objectives, and evaluation. These working definitions are used to facilitate communication since words are ambiguous and subject to many interpretations.

Assessment is aimed at *improving the teaching/learning process*. It is the systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of information, which provides continuous feedback about the success in reaching the stated objectives, goals, and learning outcomes. Everyone is involved in the assessment process.

Goals are aimed at facilitating teaching and learning within the *college system*. They are global and broad measurable statements that clearly focus on the philosophy and purpose of the college, programs, and services.

Student Learning Outcomes are *student* focused. They are global and broad measurable statements that clearly state the knowledge, skills, abilities, and attitudes a *student* has attained upon completion of a course or program and upon receiving student services.

Learning outcomes:

- Focus on what the student can do
- Demonstrate the student is competent
- Include a measurable expectation
- Use active verbs (Bloom's Taxonomy)

Objectives are specific *incremental steps* that clearly work toward the accomplishment of the goals and student learning outcomes. They are measurable and short-term in nature.

Evaluation is the judgment of a *student's work* to determine the learning achieved, the grade earned, and/or the graduation requirements satisfied. (For Course Outline use)