Improving Your Program Goals & Learning Objectives

Stony Brook University

Diana Jernigan-Breedy, Educational Effectiveness Specialist
Krista Emma, Educational Effectiveness Specialist
September 2023

OEE Facilitators

Krista Emma
Educational Effectiveness Specialist

Diana Jernigan-Breedy
Educational Effectiveness Specialist

FAR BEYOND

OEE Fall Workshop Series: Assessment Process 2.0

- OEE & the Assessment Process

- **Improving your Program Goals & Learning Objectives**

- Improving your Curriculum Map & Ensuring Your Metrics are Aligned

- Improving your Benchmarks & Setting Realistic Assessment Cycle Timelines

- Aligning Results, Actions & Improvements

Housekeeping: 23-24 Assessment Reports

- **Who:**   All Programs & Assessment Coordinators

- **What:**   Assess at least one PLO and update top section on accomplishments/improvements

- **When:**   February 23, 2024

- **How:**   Use OEE templates

Workshop objectives

Upon completion of this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Distinguish between program goals and objectives.

- Develop mission-driven goals that are distinct from your program learning objectives.

- Refine program learning objectives using more precise, measurable language.

Goals

School or College	
Department	
Degree Program	
Program Goals	
Accomplishments	
Improvements	
Evidence that Prompted Improvement	

- Describes what the program <u>provides to the students</u>. This can be a broad statement related to your mission.

- OEE suggests developing 3-6 goals.

Goals
A department or program will:

- Expose (students to ideas)

- Facilitate (student understanding)

- Foster (characteristics in students)

- Guide (students in understanding or accomplishing something)

- Help (students do or understand something)

- Highlight (an academic area, particular knowledge, or particular skills)

- Broaden (their perspectives)

- Introduce (ideas or skills)

- Invite (students to do or learn something)

- Offer (experiences, perspectives)

- Point toward (resources for students)

- Present (material)

- Promote (ways to do things, the value of particular knowledge or skills)

- Provide (information, skills, experiences, resources)

- Teach (information, skills)

Goal Example: Refine Unclear Statements

- **Original**:
  - This study uses the language of mathematics and is applied in all other natural sciences and physical sciences. The objective of the major is to teach students those principles, and, in general, how to think scientifically about the scientific world. Since the basic principles of this subject do not go out of style, and will be the basis for many new technologies, the major provides the ability to adapt to new conditions; hence its permanent value.

- **Revised**:
  - The program provides students with the opportunity to engage with natural and physical sciences through the lens of mathematics, engineering and research.
  - The program encourages students to think critically about the scientific world in relation to changing conditions and emerging technologies.

FAR
BEYOND

Stony Brook University

Objectives

Program Learning Objectives (PLOs)

Program Learning Objective 1: Upon completion of the degree, students should be able to…	
Location in Curriculum Map (Course Name)	
Assessment Method	
Timeline/Frequency	
Benchmark	
Results/Findings	
Actions/Improvements	

- What students **should know or be able to do** at the conclusion of a program, course or activity.

- Should be an action-oriented, measurable statement.

- OEE suggests developing 3-6 learning objectives.

Think about the ideal graduate from your program.

Brainstorm a list of the essential things those students should know or be able to do by the time they complete your program.

Do the items on your list align with your current program learning objectives?

Need to find your PLOs? Check our website here and click on your School/College:

Program Learning Objectives

Each degree program is responsible for developing and assessing their program goals and objectives to inform continuous improvement. Click on the icons below to browse program learning objectives (PLOs) by School or College.

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES ›	COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & APPLIED SCIENCES ›	COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ›
RENAISSANCE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ›	SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION & JOURNALISM ›	SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE ›
SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS ›	SCHOOL OF MARINE & ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES ›	SCHOOL OF NURSING ›
SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ›	SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WELFARE ›	

Step 1. Determine audience and timeline.
Learning objectives are concise extensions of the phrase, "By completing the [degree/certificate/ program], students will be able to_____."

Step 2. Select a measurable verb from Bloom's Taxonomy (or similar tool) to describe what you want students to engage in.

Step 3. Include additional supporting details to provide context.

Examples: Students will be able to...

...**create** *a measurable learning outcome using Bloom's Taxonomy as a framework.*

...**evaluate** *organizational decisions based on business ethical principles.*
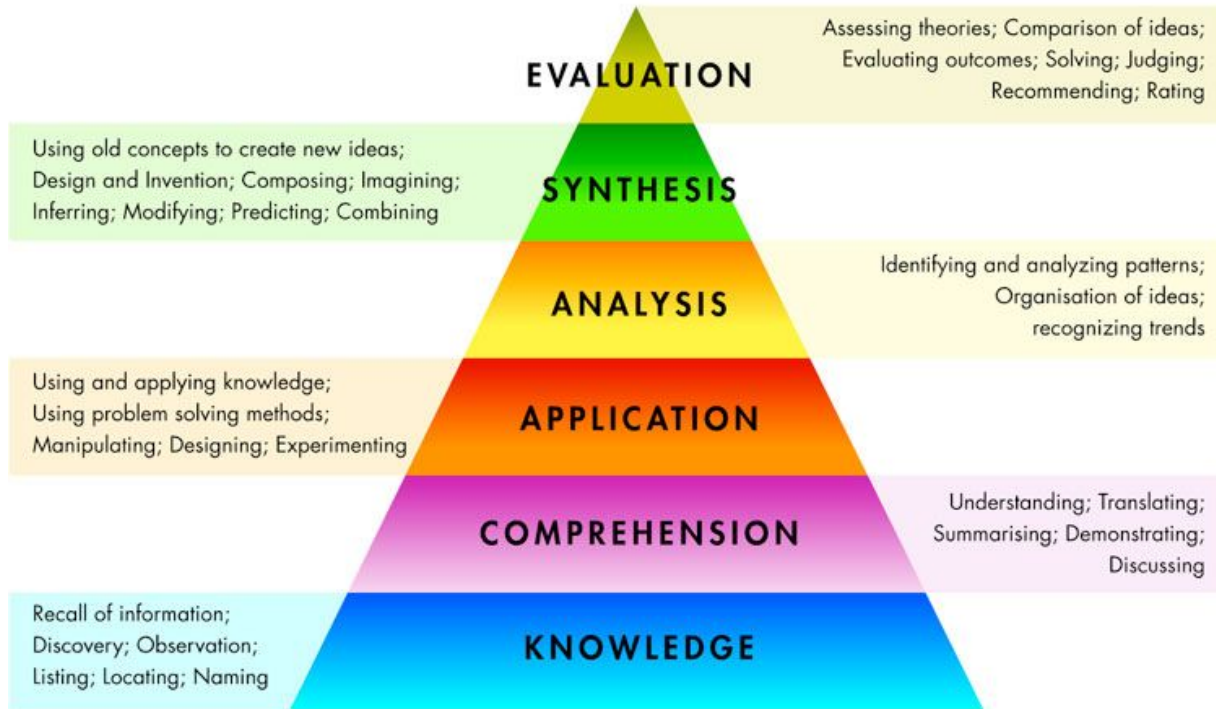
...**compare** *works of art from the Impressionism and Post-Impressionism eras.*

...**apply** *the quadratic equation to an algebra word problem.*

...**describe** *the basic theories in developmental psychology.*

...**identify** *elements in the periodic table.*

FAR BEYOND

Objectives Examples:

- Students will be able to apply computer-programming language to solve practical engineering problems.

- Students will be able to communicate scientific ideas effectively in both written and oral formats.

How can we improve these objectives?

1. Students will understand how to solve an algebraic equation.

2. Students will appreciate a poem.

3. Students will be familiar with terms and vocabulary.

4. Students will know about the nutritional needs of older adults.

5. Students will be exposed to knowledge and business ethics.

6. Students will learn the steps of the scientific method.

Activity: How would you improve the above objectives? Enter your revisions into the chat.

How can we improve these objectives?

1. Students will ~~understand how to~~ **solve** an algebraic equation.

2. Students will ~~appreciate~~ **analyze the literary elements of** a poem.

3. Students will **define** ~~be familiar with~~ terms and vocabulary.

4. Students will ~~know about~~ **assess** the nutritional needs of older adults.

5. Students will ~~be exposed to knowledge and~~ **demonstrate appropriate** business ethics.

6. Students will ~~learn~~ **apply** the steps of the scientific method to real-world research.

Real Example of SBU PLO - Original

Upon completion of the degree, students should be able to provide students the tools needed to break down, assess, defend and reflect upon the capital project concepts and techniques used to calculate and justify budget decisions used in today's technology industry.

Real Example of SBU PLO - Areas to Improve

Upon completion of the degree, students should be able to provide students the tools needed to break down, assess, defend and reflect upon the capital project concepts and techniques used to calculate and justify budget decisions used in today's technology industry.

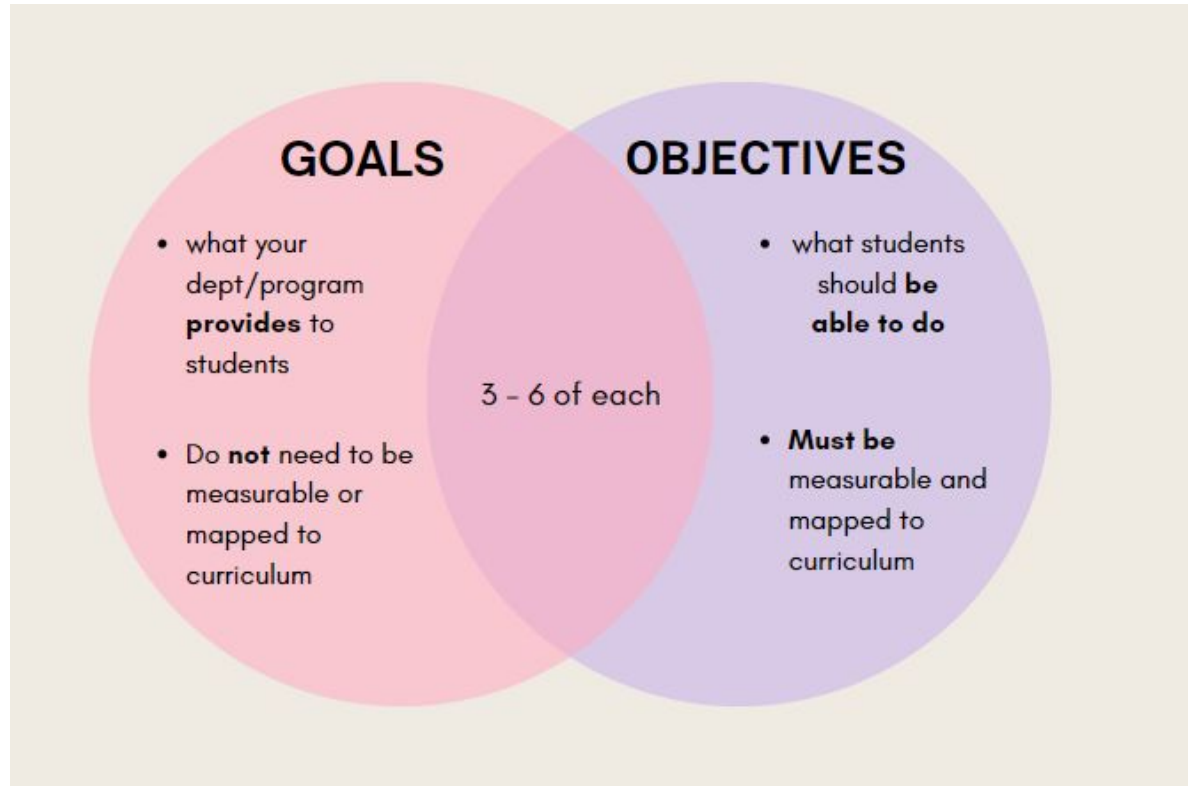# Real Example of SBU PLO - Suggested Revision

Upon completion of the degree, students should be able to analyze concepts and techniques used in capital project budgeting.

Recap

Stony Brook University

Now it's your turn!

Revise one program goal or PLO.

Share your example in the chat.

Questions & Discussion

Questions?

Sign up for our events: bit.ly/OEECalendar

Assessment Workshop Series 2.0

Sept. - Nov.

Annual Assessment Symposium

Nov. 8

Annual Recognition Event

Spring 2024

Coffee with Coordinators

Oct. 19

Schedule a consultation at your convenience

Contact us:

diana.jernigan-breedy@stonybrook.edu

krista.emma@stonybrook.edu

EducationalEffectiveness@stonybrook.edu