

PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES HELP SHEET

A. IMPROVE Data Fields

Program Student Learning Outcomes or PSLOs (required): These are 3 to 6 statements that capture the major goals of the program. For input to IMPROVE, it is helpful to include a short thumbnail title (2-3 words long) and choose the correct outcome category (A Knowledge, B Skills or C Capabilities).

Assessment Indicators (required): For each outcome, you need to state 1 or (at most) 2 ways you can measure whether students have achieved it. Direct measurements (tests or rubrics) are preferred to indirect (course final grades or surveys).

Expected Outcomes (optional): Some programs have specific thresholds of success they must meet for accreditation purposes. Other programs may not be able to predict what they expect, so this is optional.

Source of Data: (optional): This field is used to capture both the timing of assessment and (if desired) what classes or Portfolio assignment will provide the opportunity for assessment

B. Examples

- **Category A (Knowledge)** These outcomes focus on what students know after completing their program of study. Core concepts that all students in the program should master are generally emphasized over individual course learning outcomes.

PSLO 1. Foundational Concepts

Upon completion of the Sidewalk Studies program, the student will understand the purpose of sidewalks and be able to classify them according to composition and style. Category A (Knowledge)

Indicator: Seniors will be given a short quiz at the to make sure they know basic sidewalk concepts.

Source of Data: Senior capstone seminar SWST 480.

- **Category B (Skills)** These outcomes measure professional skills students can use when they graduate. Depending on the program and the student's next stop (IE, professional school versus immediate employment), these could be general intellectual skills like critical thinking or very specific technical skills such as specialized software use.

PSLO 2. Blueprint Creation

Upon completion of the Sidewalk Studies program, the student will be able to use SideWalkPro™ to create a detailed blueprint that could be used to install a sidewalk according to preset specifications. Category B (Skills)

Indicator: Juniors will be graded using a rubric on a SideWalkPro™ assignment.

Source of Data: Junior core course SWST 335.

- **Category C (Capabilities)** These outcomes capture what students are ready for when they enter the workforce. These complex professional tasks include communication, ethical decision-making, time management, teamwork and leadership skills, etc. It is common for graduate programs to have more Category C outcomes than A and B.

PSLO 3. Design and Budgeting

Upon completion of the Sidewalk Studies program, the student will be able to design a sidewalk system for a specific municipal or commercial need and determine its installation budget. Category C (Capabilities)

Indicator: Seniors will be graded using a rubric on their capstone sidewalk design project.

Source of Data: Senior capstone seminar SWST 480.

C. TIMELINE & TOOLS – SOME POSSIBLE FORMATS YOU CAN USE

Two-year assessment timeline (four or five outcomes)

Outcome	Suggested Timeline	Assessment Tool
1.	Fall of Even-Numbered Years	
2.	Spring of Odd-Numbered Years	
3.	Fall of Odd-Numbered Years	
4. / 5.	Spring of Even-Numbered Years	

Three-year assessment timeline (three or six outcomes)

Outcome	Suggested Timeline	Assessment Tool
1.	Fall of Year 1	
2.	Fall of Year 2	
3.	Fall of Year 3	
4.	Spring of Year 1	
5.	Spring of Year 2	
6.	Spring of Year 3	

Two-year assessment timeline (summer assessment analysis of prior academic year)

Outcome	Suggested Timeline	Assessment Tool
1 - 3	Fall of Even-Numbered Years	
4 - 6	Fall of Odd-Numbered Years	