Writing Course-Level Student Learning Outcomes

Think about the learners. Consider the following questions:

What are the most essential things the learners need to know or be able to do at the end of your course?

How should your learners’ knowledge, skills and perceptions have changed as a result of completing your course?

Think broadly. Don’t focus on small details.

Think about addressing classes of topics, theories, skills sets, etc.

1A. List the major course elements you want your students TO KNOW by the end of the course. (theories, concepts, facts, models, etc.)
1B. List the major things you want your learners TO BE ABLE TO DO (skills, abilities, procedures, etc.) **after completing your course.**

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2. **List the Your Course-Level Student Learning Outcomes.**

Remember the characteristics of well written student learning outcomes.

Identify what a student should learn as a result of taking your course

Specific
Measurable statements
Attainable
Realistic
Timely

Use action verbs

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3. **Prioritize your Course-Level Student Learning Outcomes**

Put a “1” next to your most important student learning outcome, etc.

Choose to focus on three to five of your student learning outcomes. This keeps your assessments and course plan manageable.  

Definitely, do not select more than 10 student learning outcomes.

Your other student learning outcomes, which were excluded from the final selection, may be useful at the basic level, such as chapter, unit or assignment.