



Date: October 25, 2018
To: Veena Prabhu, Academic Senate Chair
From: Paul Nerenberg, Educational Policy Committee Chair
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Subject: Proposed Institutional Graduate Learning Outcomes

WSCUC requires that all institutions offering graduate programs develop a set of graduate-level learning outcomes that apply to all programs across the University. The Graduate Studies Subcommittee spent several meetings in AY 2017-18 discussing and developing institutional Graduate Learning Outcomes (Grad LOs) for Cal State LA. The Graduate Studies Subcommittee reviewed the following documents to inform the development of the proposed institutional Grad LOs:

- Degree Qualifications Profile (DQP): This document provides a baseline set of reference points for what students should know and be able to do to earn associate, bachelor's, and master's degrees. This helps programs develop learning outcomes that differentiate higher-order learning at the graduate level from learning outcomes expected at the undergraduate level.
- MA Degree Specification Rubric from the DQP
- Bloom's Taxonomy of Learning Domains
- Mission statements and student learning outcomes for each graduate program at Cal State LA
- Developing Graduate Learning Outcomes: This document was prepared by Dean of Graduate Studies to assist Cal State LA graduate programs with developing program learning outcomes.
- WSCUC Guidelines for the Review of Graduate Programs
- Cal State LA Institutional Learning Outcomes
- Institutional Grad LOs from other CSUs and local institutions

The proposed institutional Grad LOs were aligned with Cal State LA's Institutional Learning Outcomes and span the following domains: (1) Specialized Knowledge; (2) Intellectual Skills; (3) Urban and Global Mission; and (4) Integrative Learning.

EPC subsequently reviewed and edited these Grad LOs and solicited feedback from all graduate programs to ensure that discipline-specific learning outcomes are appropriately reflected in these overarching graduate-level learning outcomes.

The majority of feedback that we received (see Appendix, attached) was positive and encouraged adoption of the outcomes as is. Some of the graduate program advisors requested small changes to the Grad LOs – particularly #6 and #8 – so as to better align with their programs, and we have made these modifications accordingly.

A few other advisors felt that there were too many Grad LOs and that some should either be deleted or consolidated. Both GSS and EPC discussed that particular issue at length, however, and felt that it was important for the learning outcomes to be distinct and specific. We also note that a single activity within a graduate program (e.g., a thesis or other form of culminating project) may serve as a meaningful assessment of multiple learning outcomes.

As such, we believe that the Grad LOs are now ready to be considered by the Academic Senate and more broadly by the campus community.



INSTITUTIONAL GRADUATE LEARNING OUTCOMES

GRADUATE STUDENTS AT CAL STATE LA WILL BE ABLE TO:

1. DEMONSTRATE MASTERY OF MAJOR THEORIES, CONCEPTS, APPROACHES TO INQUIRY AND/OR PRACTICES RELEVANT TO THE FIELD OF STUDY.
2. DEMONSTRATE INFORMATION LITERACY APPROPRIATE TO THE FIELD OF STUDY.
3. IDENTIFY AND EVALUATE OR APPLY DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES, ASSUMPTIONS, AND CONVENTIONS WITHIN THE FIELD OF STUDY.
4. CRITICALLY EXAMINE THE POWER AND LIMITATIONS OF QUANTITATIVE AND/OR QUALITATIVE EVIDENCE IN THE EVALUATION, CONSTRUCTION, AND COMMUNICATION OF ARGUMENTS IN THE FIELD OF STUDY.
5. DEMONSTRATE COMMUNICATIVE FLUENCY APPROPRIATE TO THE FIELD OF STUDY. COMMUNICATIVE FLUENCY CAN INCLUDE MULTIPLE EXPRESSIVE MODES.
6. ARTICULATE HOW ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE OR PRACTICE IN THEIR FIELD OF STUDY CONTRIBUTES TO THE PUBLIC GOOD.
7. FRAME AND EXAMINE A CONTROVERSY OR PROBLEM THROUGH RESEARCH, PROJECTS, PAPERS, EXHIBITS, OR PERFORMANCES IN THE FIELD OF STUDY.
8. SITUATE THE FIELD OF STUDY AND ITS RELEVANCE WITHIN A BROADER CONTEXT, INCLUDING – BUT NOT LIMITED TO – SOCIAL, INTELLECTUAL, AND/OR APPLIED PROFESSIONAL CONTEXTS.
9. APPLY APPROPRIATE ETHICAL STANDARDS OR PRACTICES WITHIN THE FIELD OF STUDY.