



ULO REPORT

A collaboration between the Office of Institutional and Academic Insights (IAI) and the Assessment and Learning Council



Spring 2023

Connection between Program and University Learning Outcomes at SCU

Key Takeaways

- ❖ The specificity of some ULOs preclude some programs from mapping to them
- ❖ Non-Clinical Programs cannot link to Clinical-specific ULOs
- ❖ Redefining ULOs is an opportunity to build University Community

Current SCU University Learning Outcomes

- **Professional Therapies:** *The graduate will perform professional therapeutic skills in a competent and caring manner.*
- **Critical Thinking:** *The graduate will analyze and integrate information gathered from patient/client interactions and apply it to professional health care practice.*
- **Evidence-Based Knowledge:** *The graduate will utilize foundational health science knowledge, and critically appraise and apply relevant scientific literature in professional health care practice.*
- **Outcomes-Focused Practice:** *The graduate will successfully develop and implement a health care management plan utilizing appropriate professional methodologies and quality care to achieve best patient/client outcomes.*
- **Communication:** *The graduate will effectively engage with patients/clients, colleagues, and the public using appropriate professional verbal, non-verbal, and written communication.*
- **Professionalism:** *The graduate will demonstrate leadership, integrity, respect, and self-reflection while employing ethical and legal standards in professional and community interactions.*
- **Integrative Healthcare:** *The graduate will serve as an effective member of a healthcare team, collaborating with other professionals to improve community health and patient outcomes for the health of individuals and the community.*

Following Assessment and Learning Council discussions in the Spring of 2021 regarding programmatic assessment reports and the [alignment of Program Learning Outcomes to University Learning Outcomes](#), it was discovered that the mapping of PLOs to ULOs was not as complete as had been assumed. After OIE (now IAI) met with various program directors and brought up the topic in ALC, the following issues came forward:

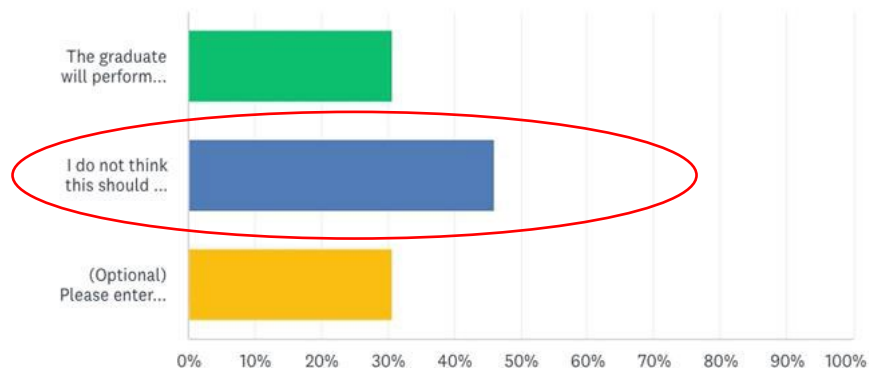
- Although ULOs conceptually aligned with many programs' PLO assessment, the specificity of the wording of some ULOs precluded some programs from including them in the assessment mapping. For example, the phrasing "relevant scientific literature" in the *evidence-based knowledge* ULO did not resonate with all epistemologies found in Eastern and Western thought.
- The current ULOs were written at a time when all of SCU's programs had clinical components. *Outcomes-Focused Practice* and *Professional Therapies* only apply to

programs with clinical components. This prompted an ALC discussion of whether or not they should be included in the list of outcomes that we say “any graduate of SCU, regardless of program, will be able to do”.

After robust discussion in the ALC, members responded to a [survey](#). The results of the survey indicated that many members thought the wording of several ULOs could be slightly changed to make them fit all programs better. The ALC was split on the clinical ULOs with representatives from non-clinical programs thinking they should be removed while those from clinical programs insisted that they were major components of what their graduates need to be able to do. This led to the idea that the two clinical PLOs be retained for clinical programs and be designated as “clinical program only ULOs”. The chart below shows a plurality of ALC thinking that the *Professional Therapies* ULO should be removed.

Which description best fits the ULO of Professional Therapies?

Answered: 13 Skipped: 1



After presentation to the Academic Council, the ULO discussion was brought back to the ALC.

Recommendations

The ALC recommends that SCU adopt the following ULOs:

Critical thinking

“The graduate will analyze and integrate information and apply it as appropriate to their field of study.”

Professionalism

“The graduate will demonstrate leadership, integrity, respect, and self-reflection while employing ethical and legal standards in professional and community interactions.”

Evidence-informed knowledge (changed from evidence-based knowledge)

“The graduate will utilize health science knowledge and critically appraise and apply scholarly literature as appropriate to their field of study.”

Communication

“The graduate will effectively engage using appropriate professional verbal, non-verbal, and written communication.”

Integrative Healthcare

“The graduate will apply their training in complex, interdisciplinary contexts to improve community health and patient outcomes.”

Clinical program specific ULOS: (unchanged)

Outcomes-focused practice

“The graduate will successfully develop and implement a health care management plan utilizing appropriate professional methodologies and quality care to achieve best patient/client outcomes.”

Professional therapies

“The graduate will perform professional therapeutic skills in a competent and caring manner.”

Program Directors who took part in the ULO discussion when the ULOs were created recalled that the discussion included multiple constituents including students, faculty, staff.

Next Steps

The ALC and IAI propose that the Provost’s and Academic Councils discuss these recommended changes and then guide the University in a thoughtful conversation about which ULOs would best define what it means to be a graduate of SCU. These discussions could also be part of a larger Strategic Planning initiative.