

## Basic Skills Projects: Student Learning Outcome Reference Sheet

The following provides an overview of how to construct Student Learning Outcomes. This document is meant to supplement the [SLO Guidebook](#) constructed by the joint efforts of Priyadarshini Chaplot and Cathy Stute through the office of Research and Institutional Effectiveness at Mt. San Antonio College.

### History

Mt. San Antonio College uses a framework to assessment of Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs), Administrative Unit Objectives (AUOs), and General Education Outcomes (GEOs). This framework is the Nichols' 5-Column Model, and is the framework used to evaluate projects funded by [Basic Skills Initiative](#) (BSI) monies. Additionally, at an institution level, Mt. SAC has a technological web-solution in place, ePIE, which houses all the information born out of the 5-Column Model as a central repository. Lastly, the department of [Research and Institutional Effectiveness](#) (RIE) completes an American Psychological Association (APA) style report for each BSI project, and distributes the report around the campus.

### 5-Column Model

The 5CM is an effective and efficient means to evaluate a project. The first column looks at the goals of the project; these should be in alignment with the Mission, Goals, and Values of the college. Next, the SLOs attached to the project are defined. For each SLO, an assessment method is decided upon, and an appropriate instrument is constructed, with the help of RIE; this, along with the criteria for success for each SLO, comprises the third column. After the assessment has been implemented, data is collected, and submitted to RIE. RIE will use the data to create a draft of an APA-style report for the project with the data for each SLO. Using the data and this report, the project manager may now complete the fourth column (data), and most importantly, the fifth column (action). The fifth column is the most vital to the project, as it constitutes what action will be taken as a result of the data.



### Student Learning Outcomes

SLOs are specifically defined as: *A statement about what a student will think, know, feel or be able to do as a result of an educational experience.* In practical terms: *As a result of X, the participants will be able to [think, know, feel, or do] Y.* The syntax provides the structure, but now the structure must be filled with substance. Three primary core traits comprise the substance of a SLO; these traits are: **Central**, **Feasible**, and **Meaningful**. The more central a SLO is to a project, the more generalizable the implications based on the data. This is to say, sharply honed SLOs targeting specific aspects of the project allows for better data integrity, and better action to be taken as a result of the data. Feasible relates to resource allocation, and grounds the project in reality; a project may be wildly ambitious, but is unattainable given limited resources. Lastly, and most importantly, the SLO must be meaningful. Why is it important to your project? Why do you want to know X? These types of questions are the driving force for conducting research on the project. Meaningful SLOs lead to a positive impact.