

SLOs: The Syllabus and Course Outline of Record



From the Desk of Joan Sholars, SLO Coordinator

Odette Richardson, Editor

A question that I am asked quite often is, **“Do I need to put the course-level SLOs on the syllabus for the course?”** The short answer is “yes.” But another question arises. **“Are there different ways that this can be done?”** The answer to this question is also “yes.”

Some faculty at Mt. San Antonio College already publish the course SLOs on their syllabus. For instance, students taking some French classes reported that SLOs are on the course syllabus. Also, students taking Aerobics Laboratory from any instructor have the SLOs for the course published on the syllabus.

Other faculty give their students an addendum to the syllabus. For example, all students in Early Childhood Development classes receive an addendum to the syllabus with the SLOs published for every Early Childhood Development class.

“What course-level SLOs options are available to faculty?”

- Publish the SLOs on the syllabus.
- Give each student an addendum to the syllabus with the SLOs published on the addendum.
- Publish the SLOs on the department and/or division webpage and give a link to the webpage on the syllabus.
- Publish the SLOs on the college’s SLO website (<http://www.mtsac.edu/instruction/outcomes/>) and give a link to the webpage on the syllabus. (Please contact me at Extension 4610 to get this done.)

Any combination of the above could work. In addition, SLOs could be published on both an addendum and on the department website. We recommend that faculty give a definition of SLOs for students to avoid any confusion with the course’s measurable objectives. (A definition of SLOs is on page 5 of the *Guidebook to Student Learning Outcomes and Administrative Unit Objectives* at <http://www.mtsac.edu/administration/senates/academic/documents/SLOAUOGUIDEBOOK090808FINAL.pdf>).

“Do SLOs need to be part of the Course Outline of Record (COR)?” Yes. Since SLOs can change, this is harder for faculty to do since the COR is not as easy to change. We are currently investigating different ways to meet this requirement. Currently, SLOs are not part of the COR.

Dr. John Nixon recently wrote in an Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) newsletter, “A good course (and one that successfully addresses accreditation requirements) identifies the intended SLOs for the course, as well as the means of authentically assessing whether and how well students learn.”¹ Consequently, all of the work faculty do on SLOs is intended to enhance student learning and to help us, as faculty, improve our teaching styles, if needed.

If you have any questions, please contact me at Extension 4610 or jsholars@mtsac.edu.

¹ Nixon, J. with Beno, B. (2009, Spring). Where do course SLO’s live? *Accreditation NOTES*, p. 2, <http://www.accjc.org/pdf/March%202009%20newsletter.pdf>.