

OBJECTIVES*

The objectives of a course are the primary components and skills leading to student achievement and the course's intended purpose. The objectives should specify these components and skills to ensure that all faculty delivering the course

usually begins with the phrase "Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to..." These items are sometimes referred to as "behavioral objectives." These objectives can be measured through a range of assessments, including the use of rubrics to measure performance quality in writing, computation, or other skills.

C O a S L a O

Course objectives state the concepts or skills faculty introduce to students in a course or program in order to prepare students to meet a student learning outcome (SLO). Objectives are the means, not the ends. Course SLOs are the intended abilities and knowledge students can demonstrate after successfully completing the course objectives. SLOs must be written in measurable or observable terms and as actions that a student will perform in order to display the skills necessary to meet the SLO.

For example, for an introductory swimming course, the course objectives might consist of all four competitive swimming strokes; the course SLOs will measure the student's ability to perform all four strokes. The following is an example of a course objective that supports an SLO for a swimming course:

C :
Demonstrate proper breathing techniques and arm position for the backstroke.

SLO:
Swim the backstroke for at least ten yards.

In this example, a student can demonstrate the SLO only after completing the objective.

Another example might be as follows:

C :
Demonstrate proper breathing techniques and arm position for the backstroke.
Demonstrate proper breathing techniques and arm position for the front crawl.
Demonstrate proper breathing techniques and arm position for the breaststroke.
Demonstrate proper breathing techniques and arm position for the butterfly.

SLO:
Swim all four strokes of the medley relay for 25 meters each within 3 minutes.

In this example, all four objectives provide the scaffolding of skills the students need to be able to demonstrate an SLO; the SLO synthesizes the content and skills learned by completing all the objectives.

*Excerpt: *Teaching Objectives of a Course: A Guide to Writing Effective Objectives* (ASCCCS, 2017)
<https://website>