

How to Write a PLO

Example: Outcome Statement – First Draft

Write the first draft of your outcome statement below.

BS JPS graduates who enter law enforcement be critical thinkers and will have high clearance rates for investigations.

Review your draft outcome to determine whether all the guidelines have been met.

Are the Guidelines Met?	Comments
✘ Support one or more long-term goals	High clearance rates are important to any law enforcement agency, but unrelated to BS JPS. Remember to base each program outcome on a long-term goal to ensure consistency with the program mission.
✘ Consider gen ed., if relevant, within context of discipline	Expresses critical thinking in context of the discipline. Also, the BS JPS program trains its students in criminal justice <i>administration</i> , not <i>investigative</i> techniques.
✔ Observable and measurable	Crime statistics are readily available through a number of public sources
✔ Focused on knowledge and skills, not inputs and processes	Solving crimes and closing cases is an outcome rather than a curricular input
✔ Consider external standards, if any	Agency might be CALEA accredited, but degree program is not.
✘ Avoid combining multiple outcomes	This is two outcomes.
✔ Short and concise	This is not an overly wordy outcome.
✘ Graduates will be able to _____	This does not describe a specific knowledge or skill.

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Example: Outcome Statement – Revised

Write your revised draft of your outcome statement below.

BS JPS graduates will be able to apply knowledge of social, behavioral, and constitutional issues to develop well-written policies that are legally defensible and socially acceptable to key stakeholders.

Review your draft outcome to determine whether all the guidelines have been met.

Are the Guidelines Met?	Comments
✓ Support one or more long-term goals	This outcome is directly related to our long-term goal.
✓ Consider gen ed., if relevant, within context of discipline	This is related to written communication and critical thinking.
✓ Observable and measurable	There are many ways students can demonstrate these skills.
✓ Focused on knowledge and skills, not inputs and processes	Demonstration of content knowledge and skills is outcome-focused.
✓ Consider external standards, if any	No accreditation standards apply.
✗ Avoid combining multiple outcomes	This is multiple outcomes combined in a single statement.
✗ Short and concise	This is somewhat wordy – a red flag for multiple outcomes.
✓ Graduates will be able to _____	This is in the correct form.

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Example: Outcome Statement – Final

Write the final draft of your outcome statement below.

BS JPS graduates will be able to write appropriate enforcement policies.
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Review your draft outcome to determine whether all the guidelines have been met.

Are the Guidelines Met?	Comments
✓ Support one or more long-term goals	This outcome is directly related to our long-term goal.
✓ Consider gen ed., if relevant, within context of discipline	This is related to Justice and Policy Studies.
✓ Observable and measurable	There are many ways faculty can assign students to demonstrate this.
✓ Focused on knowledge and skills, not inputs and processes	Demonstration of content knowledge and skills is outcome-focused.
✓ Consider external standards, if any	No accreditation standards apply.
✓ Avoid combining multiple outcomes	This is a single outcome.
✓ Short and concise	This is short and concise.
✓ Graduates will be able to _____	This is in the correct form.

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Exercise 5 – Your Turn: Outcome Statement – First Draft

Write the first draft of your outcome statement below.

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Review your draft outcome to determine whether all the guidelines have been met.

Are the Guidelines Met?	Comments
Support one or more long-term goals	
Consider gen ed., if relevant, within context of discipline	
Observable and measurable	
Focused on knowledge and skills, not inputs and processes	
Consider external standards, if any	
Avoid combining multiple outcomes	
Short and concise	
Graduates will be able to _____	

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Exercise 5 – Your Turn: Outcome Statement – Revised

Write your revised draft of your outcome statement below.

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Review your draft outcome to determine whether all the guidelines have been met.

Are the Guidelines Met?	Comments
Support one or more long-term goals	
Consider gen ed., if relevant, within context of discipline	
Observable and measurable	
Focused on knowledge and skills, not inputs and processes	
Consider external standards, if any	
Avoid combining multiple outcomes	
Short and concise	
Graduates will be able to _____	

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Exercise 5 – Your Turn: Outcome Statement – Final

Write the Final draft of your outcome statement below.

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Review your draft outcome to determine whether all the guidelines have been met.

Are the Guidelines Met?	Comments
Support one or more long-term goals	
Consider gen ed., if relevant, within context of discipline	
Observable and measurable	
Focused on knowledge and skills, not inputs and processes	
Consider external standards, if any	
Avoid combining multiple outcomes	
Short and concise	
Graduates will be able to _____	