

Assessment Vocabulary at Lincoln College (Glossary of Terms)

Every institution in higher education has a specific set of terms used in their unique assessment processes. Such terms as objectives, goals, and outcomes can be distinct at one institution and interchangeable at another. The following is the basic glossary of terms related to assessment used at Lincoln College:

- ***GELO (General Education Learning Outcome)***: One of the five *institutional* outcomes identified by the College which **ALL** students should demonstrate upon graduation regardless of their program of study. All academic program outcomes are aligned to these 5 GELOs. The Five GELOs are:

Upon completion of their academic program at Lincoln College, students are able to:

1. Effectively communicate in oral and written forms. (***Communication Skills***)
2. Produce solutions to problems using critical reasoning. (***Analytical Skills***)
3. Critique and evaluate diverse perspectives/ideas. (***Appreciate Diversity***)
4. Articulate core values in making ethical choices. (***Ethical Decision-Making***)
5. Recognize one's accountability to a larger community. (***Responsible Citizenship***)

- ***GELO Rubric***: The direct measure of assessment of the General Education Learning Outcome (GELO) completed by the faculty member on an assignment or course activity which aligns to one of the GELOs. The GELO rubrics were developed by the full-time faculty members within each division at an Assessment Workshop in 2013. Based on the AAC&U Value Rubrics, the GELO rubrics provide the elements and characteristics which define each of the GELOs indicated above. Available in MyLynx, faculty members send the rubric scores (determined after grading the assignment) on an identified assignment in the course to gelo@lincolncollege.edu so that the data can be analyzed for the GELO being assessed in order to make changes to the curriculum. (See the *Measures of Assessment of Student Learning* later in this Guide for more information on completing GELO rubrics).
- ***Master Syllabus***: The document developed by the division, department, and/or academic program which indicates the minimum course learning outcomes, the minimum course objectives and/or topics, and any required assessments established by the department, division or program which are gathered for assessment purposes. Master syllabi allow the College to map the curriculum so that there is an intentional design to the student's learning as they progress through the curriculum.
- ***Program Learning Outcome***: A measurable student performance result identified by the specific academic program for which the student is enrolled (e.g., Business Management, Sport Management, Associate of Arts, GELO, etc.) Program Learning Outcomes are aligned to GELOs but are specific to the academic program in terms of content and subject matter.
- ***Course Learning Outcome***: A measurable student performance result identified by the specific course for which a student is enrolled. The master syllabus includes and identifies the minimum, common course learning outcomes across delivery modalities and locations at the College. Course learning outcomes are aligned to Program Learning Outcomes by the academic department or program.

- ***Course Objective:*** A goal of the course which identifies those content/subject area activities, attributes, abilities, and/or knowledge a student should engage in and achieve in a specific course. Course objectives are content specific to the course within a discipline.
- ***Direct Measure:*** Assessment measures which evaluate student performance in meeting the established and specific learning outcomes of an academic program or course and result from analysis of student behaviors or products in which students demonstrate how well they have mastered learning outcomes.
- ***Indirect Measure:*** Assessment measures which evaluate feelings, perceptions, thoughts, and opinions of student learning and the programmatic institutional environment which supports learning.