



Communicating Course Outcomes to Students

In planning for your course, it is important that you identify what you want your students to know and be able to do by the end of the semester. Much like planning for a vacation, knowing your final destination helps you plan your travels and stay on track. Knowing your course outcomes helps you plan for exams, assignments, and daily lessons for the entire semester.

It is also important to communicate your expectations to students. Students will be better able to situate classroom experiences if they have a sense of where those experiences fit within the big picture of the course, as well as how the experiences are relevant to their learning in the course.

The following strategies may help you make your course outcomes transparent to students:

1. List your outcomes in your syllabus with student-friendly language.
2. Inform students—in your syllabus and in class—how the course outcomes will be assessed.
3. List all assignments in your syllabus with accompanying information regarding how they fit within the bigger picture of the course, as well as how they relate to outcomes.
4. Begin your daily lessons by relating how the key ideas support a particular outcome.

For more information related to aligning course outcomes with exams and assignments, please contact ITLE at 405-744-1000.