Student learning outcomes describe the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that students are expected to achieve by the end of an educational program. In higher education, that program typically is a set of sequenced courses within a discipline of study (major) or across several disciplines (area of emphasis), general education requirements, or the entire scope of all of these requirements culminating in the confirmation of an Associates Degree. At a community college, there are opportunities that could also lead to certificates (achievement or accomplishment). As a defined component of an educational program’s curriculum this designation correlates, in part, to the program’s SLOs. Therefore, assessment of a program’s SLOs will holistically capture any Certificate of Achievement listed within that program.

Student learning outcomes are the result of meaningful conversations around the following three questions as a result of completing the degree program.

- What should these students know by the time they finish?
- What should these students be able to do with what they know?
- What should these students care about?

Taking the time to publicly state student learning outcomes for the College’s instructional programs is important for several reasons. There are sound pedagogical reasons for stating program-level learning outcomes as well as accountability reasons.

- Student learning outcomes clarify faculty expectations for what student should know, be able to do, and value by the time they complete any major or all of the aspects of an educational program.
- When published, student learning outcomes communicate to the public, prospective students, and potential employers what is unique and valuable about a particular educational experience at LBCC.
- Assessment of student learning outcomes can provide information for the improvement of educational programs and for demonstrating their effectiveness.
- LBCC’s accreditation agency, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, expects that all educational programs (that is, majors, and the general education program) will establish their own student learning outcomes and plans for assessing learning outcomes and will use the results for the improvement of student learning.