

Cal Poly General Education Program Learning Outcomes

(as of 5/20/2014)

Cal Poly's General Education (GE) Program is a defined program according to the CSU Title V and Executive Order 1065 requirements. As such, in 2006, the Review of the California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo General Education Program (Allen, Banta, Greenwald) stated that, "*Cal Poly does not have explicit learning outcomes for the GE Program*" and that, "*we suggest that faculty consider developing a short set of program-wide outcomes (for the GE Program).*"

In accordance with Academic Senate (AS) 713-10 Resolution on the Establishment of an Academic Senate General Education Governance Board (GEGB), one of the duties of the GEGB is to be "*proactive and responsive to the recommendations that result from academic program review.*" As a result, the GEGB has developed a list of seven (7) General Education Program Learning Outcomes:

1. **Construct and critique arguments from a logical perspective** (GEPLO #1)
2. **Use appropriate rhetorical strategies to connect with diverse audiences through oral, written, and visual modes of communication** (GEPLO #2)
3. **Address real world problems by demonstrating broad disciplinary knowledge, skills, and values in arts, humanities, sciences, and technology** (GEPLO #3)
4. **Understand the value of a general education in relation to a major course of study** (GEPLO #4)
5. **Collaborate with people of different backgrounds, values, and experiences** (GEPLO #5)
6. **Evaluate global and local issues and their impact on society** (GEPLO #6)
7. **Use intention and reflection to develop and improve one's own learning** (GEPLO #7)

According to Cal Poly Academic Programs and the Learning Outcomes Assessment Planning Guide, the definition of Program Goals (Outcomes) is to provide, "*(t)he general aims or purposes of the program and its curriculum. Effective goals are broadly stated, meaningful, achievable and assessable. Goals should provide a framework for determining the more specific educational objectives of a program and should be consistent with your program mission and the Cal Poly mission.*" Academic Programs also states within the guide that examples of acceptable Program Goals (Outcomes) include, "*Understand and can apply fundamental concepts of the discipline; Create solutions to problems; Commitment to open-minded inquiry and lifelong learning.*" Furthermore, the Learning Outcomes Assessment Planning Guide points to the use of listing Education Objectives (EO) for each Goal (Outcome) and those EOs should be defined as, "*(t)he knowledge, skills, abilities, capacities, attitudes or dispositions you expect students to acquire in your program; Educational objectives should be clearly stated, realistic and achievable; They should meaningfully define the related goal, and, where possible, indicate desired level of attainment; Educational objectives should be assessable.*"

Currently, Cal Poly's General Education Program has approximately fifty-three (53) Education Outcomes and one-hundred and twenty-seven (127) Criteria for courses in the various content areas and sub-areas of General Education. With the creation of GE PLOs, the above stated number of varying Educational Outcomes (objectives) can now be "*meaningfully define[d]*" to a related goal.

The construction of these **new GE Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)** is an affirmation of the GE Program's place as "*central and vital to each student's university experience. The GE Program strives to integrate the University Learning Objectives into the GE Curriculum for students*" (<http://www.ge.calpoly.edu/content/learning-objectives-and-criteria>).