

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THE ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Approved by Research Committee, May 23, 2003

Introduction

In spring, 2002, the President's Cabinet charged the Research Committee with developing student learning outcomes (SLOs) for Mesa College. The committee used the college mission statement and the principles that appear under the "Statement of Philosophy" on page 8 of the 2002-2003 San Diego Mesa College catalog as the foundation; reviewed the Exit Skills for English courses 50, 51, 56, 101, 105 and 205; considered the mission statement for the International Education program; examined district, Title 5, and accreditation requirements for general education; and reviewed SLOs from a wide variety of other colleges and sources. The proposed SLOs are aligned with Mesa College's newly revised mission statement.

These proposed six student learning outcomes are not intended to replicate the general education requirements for Associate degree (listed at the end of this document) although there may be some overlap. The proposed outcomes are high level and not specific to any particular discipline; they constitute the set of skills or behaviors that could be reasonably expected of an educated person awarded an Associate degree and augment the knowledge, skills and abilities achieved through the other requirements for the degree. Although similar to SCANS skills, the proposed outcomes have a greater emphasis on skills needed by transfer students although the outcomes are also applicable to career/technical students. Following the proposed student learning outcomes is a plan and timeline for implementation during 2003-2004. As detailed in the timeline, the next steps are for review by schools and departments in early fall; followed by submission for approval to Academic Affairs and President's Cabinet.

Proposed Student Learning Outcomes

Critical Thinking: Ability to analyze problems, conceptualize theses, develop arguments, weigh evidence, and derive conclusions. This outcome includes both inductive and deductive logical reasoning and methodological processes.

Communication: Ability to articulate the critical thinking outcomes in writing and/or speaking or by other modes of communication.

Self-awareness and Interpersonal Skills: Ability to analyze one's own actions, to see the perspective of other persons, and to work effectively with others in groups.

Personal Actions and Civic Responsibility: Ability to understand one's role in society, take responsibility for one's own actions, make ethical decisions in complex situations, and participate actively in a diverse democracy.

Global Awareness: Ability to articulate similarities and contrasts among cultures, times and environments, demonstrating understanding of cultural pluralism and knowledge of global issues.

Technological Awareness: Ability to understand the applications and implications of technology and to use technology in ways appropriate to the situation. This outcome includes information competency skills.