**Performance Objectives (Exit Skills) vs. SLOs**

**Performance Objectives, SLOs and the Course Outline of Record**

Performance Objectives (Exit Skills) are part of the course outline of record and should closely align with course content.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) appear as a required addendum to the course outline of record. Student learning outcomes, and their corresponding assessment methods, must be approved by the Learning Assessment Coordinator before a curriculum request (e.g. new course, course modification, distance education addendum, etc.) can be approved.

**Note on SLOs vs. Performance Objectives**

There should be a clear distinction between performance objectives and student learning outcomes. However, both should align with the course content.

**What are performance objectives (exit skills)?**

Objectives make up the step-by-step learning goals of a course and are directly related to the specific elements of the course content. There will be many individual objectives for any class. Although the number of individual objectives will vary according to course content, a reasonable number of objectives would range from 6 to 20.

**What are student learning outcomes?**

Student learning outcomes are broad, overarching statements of what a student will be able to do upon completion of the course.  Usually 2-3 outcomes are adequate.

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**Suggested Definitions from the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges**

***Objectives.*** Objectives are small steps that lead toward a goal, for instance the discrete course content that faculty cover within a discipline. Objectives are usually more numerous and create a framework for the overarching Student Learning Outcomes which address synthesizing, evaluating and analyzing many of the objectives.

***Student Learning Outcomes (SLO).*** Student learning outcomes (SLOs) are the specific observable or measurable results that are expected subsequent to a learning experience. These outcomes may involve knowledge (cognitive), skills (behavioral), or attitudes (affective) that provide evidence that learning has occurred as a result of a specified course, program activity, or process. An SLO refers to an overarching outcome for a course, program, degree or certificate, or student services area (such as the library). SLOs describe a student’s ability to synthesize many discreet skills using higher level thinking skills and to produce something that asks them to apply what they’ve learned.  SLOs usually encompass a gathering together of smaller discrete objectives (see definition above) through analysis, evaluation and synthesis into more sophisticated skills and abilities.

**Source: *SLO Terminology Glossary* (Academic Senate for California Community Colleges)**