

CURRICULUM MAPS Instructions and Example

Requirement for Curriculum Proposals. A curriculum map is an important tool for faculty to evaluate a program's curriculum, and should be part of the planning/review process of all programs. In addition, a curriculum map is required to be submitted when *new programs, revised programs, and new courses* are proposed. The curriculum map will help committees evaluate how the proposed program/course will contribute to the program-level student learning outcomes. Please include the program's curriculum map with the curriculum change form (and syllabus if applicable).

Note. The instructions below are for a simplified version of a curriculum map, and include the *minimum* requirements. If your program currently has a more elaborate curriculum map, that version will be accepted.

Purpose of Curriculum Maps. The purpose of a curriculum map is to identify the program-level student learning outcomes that are addressed as a major part of each course in a program's curriculum. Although most courses address multiple outcomes, any specific outcome is usually focused on in just a few courses. Thus, for the curriculum map please think about the following: *If we discover student weaknesses in outcome X, on which course(s) would we focus to improve student learning for that outcome?*

Program-Level Student Learning Outcomes. These are developed by each program's faculty. Program-level student learning outcomes are what faculty want students to know and be able to do by the time they graduate from the program. *At least one program outcome must address critical/creative thinking, and at least one must address written/oral communication.*

Creating the Curriculum Map. A curriculum map consists of your program-level student learning outcomes and all of the core/major courses in the program's curriculum (required and elective). For each outcome indicate in which course it is **Introduced (I)** and **Reinforced (R)**. For example, a beginning methods course has as its primary focus the introduction (I) of research methods used in the discipline, while an advanced methods course has as its primary focus the reinforcement (R) of those concepts. Although there may be other outcomes addressed in these courses, unless they are *a major focus of the course* they should not be marked on the curriculum map.

Sometimes it is not possible to distinguish whether an outcome is introduced versus reinforced in a specific course, for example, when courses are not prerequisites of other courses. Therefore, *if necessary*, you may enter both **I & R** to indicate that a course may introduce or reinforce an outcome, depending on the order in which students take the course.

Format. (1) List the program-level student learning outcomes. *At least one program outcome must address critical/creative thinking, and at least one must address written/oral communication.* (2) Create a table and list the program-level student learning outcomes in left column and all of the program's courses in top row. For each outcome, indicate in which course(s) it is **Introduced (I)** and **Reinforced (R)**. If necessary, both **I and R** may be used for a course. (See example curriculum map)

Note. *It is common that many outcomes are addressed in many classes. However, for the curriculum map focus on the outcomes that are addressed as a major part of that course, i.e., on which course(s) would faculty focus to improve student learning related to that outcome?*

EXAMPLE: (Partial) Curriculum Map

SLO 1: Theory & Content. *Students will understand major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in Psychology.*

SLO 2: Critical Thinking: Research Methods. *Students will use critical and creative thinking and skeptical inquiry when thinking about, critiquing, and applying research methods in Psychology*

SLO 3: Communication: *Students will be able to communicate effectively.*

PROGRAM-LEVEL STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME	PSY 200	PSY 250	PSY 300	PSY 309	PSY 311	PSY 400	PSY 401
Theory & Content	I		R		R	R	
Research Methods		I		R			R
Communication		I		R		R	R