

Curriculum Mapping

Borrowing from the THECB language describing the new Texas Core Curriculum core objectives [Coordinating Board Rules Chapter 4 Subchapter B, §4.28 (b)], SAC's college general education competencies have been written as program learning outcomes for all Associate degree programs. Under each of these program learning outcomes, SAC has defined between four and seven "Focus Areas" that span the scope of the competency. To develop a curriculum map, SAC has defined three categories (Introduction, Reinforcement, and Comprehensive) and three levels (Outcome, Course, and Program) at which a competency can be "engaged."

The mapping process begins at the *Outcome* level for each course. To engage a competency in the *Introductory* category, a specific SLO needs only to connect to a single Focus Area of that competency. To engage a competency in the *Reinforcement* category, a specific SLO needs to connect to multiple Focus Areas under that competency. To engage a competency in the *Comprehensive* category, a specific SLO must engage all Focus Areas under that competency. By the end of this portion of the mapping process, each SLO will be specifically linked to one or more competencies and specific Focus Areas associated with each competency. Ideally, students should receive comprehensive coverage of all general education competencies by completing the core curriculum, and this mapping process should identify gaps where students may only get reinforcement of a competency rather than comprehensive coverage. SAC can then address these gaps in specific courses.

Once individual SLOs are mapped for each course, they will be mapped to the *Course* level. Because it is possible that a course may have multiple outcomes that address different Focus Areas of the same competency, there will be multiple ways for a course to engage a competency in a specific category. To engage a competency in the *Introductory* category, a course needs only to connect to a single Focus Area of that competency. Thus, if one or more specific SLOs at the *Outcome* level engage the competency in the *Introductory* category, the course as a whole will engage the competency in the *Introductory* category. To engage a competency in the *Reinforcement* category, a course needs to connect to multiple Focus Areas under that competency. It can connect to multiple Focus Areas by either having a single SLO engaging the competency in the *Reinforcement* category, or by having multiple SLOs engaged at the *Introductory* level across multiple Focus Areas. To engage a competency in the *Comprehensive* category, a course must engage all Focus Areas under that competency. It can connect to all Focus Areas by either having a single SLO engaged in the *Comprehensive* category, or by addressing all Focus Areas of the competency across multiple outcomes.

Finally, once courses are mapped to each competency, they will be mapped to the *Program* level. Mapping at the Program level will follow a similar approach to the mapping at the Course level with *Course* level engagement substituting for *Outcome* level engagement. Using this technique, SAC will ensure that students get broad coverage of all the general education competencies by completing the core curriculum; and it will also permit the College to identify and address "holes" in the curriculum where one or more competencies fail to be covered comprehensively.

Curriculum Mapping Process Chart

- (1) The **Competency Statement** is a broad statement describing the general education competency.
- (2) **Competency Focus Areas** are specific characteristics that define the scope of the competency.
- (3) **Competency Rubric Requirements**, delineated in the following table, determine the extent to which a specific student learning outcomes (SLOs), course, or program engages one or more of the general education competencies.

Levels of Competency Engagement			
A specific college competency is considered to be “engaged” in one of the following categories if the following criteria are met:			
	<i>Introduction</i>	<i>Reinforcement</i>	<i>Comprehensive</i>
<i>Outcome Level</i>	Only one Focus Area is addressed by a specific course SLO.	Multiple Focus Areas are addressed by a specific course SLO.	All Focus Areas are addressed by a specific course SLO.
<i>Course Level</i>	At least one course SLO engages the competency.	Multiple course SLOs engage the competency, AND At the <i>Outcome Level</i> , at least one SLO addresses multiple Focus Areas.	At the <i>Outcome Level</i> , at least one SLO addresses all Focus Areas, OR All Focus Areas are addressed across multiple outcomes.
<i>Program Level</i>	At least one course in a program engages the competency.	Multiple courses in a program engage the competency, AND At the <i>Course Level</i> , at least one course engages the competency in the <i>Reinforcement</i> category.	Multiple courses engage the competency, AND At the <i>Course Level</i> , at least one course engages the competency in the <i>Comprehensive</i> category.