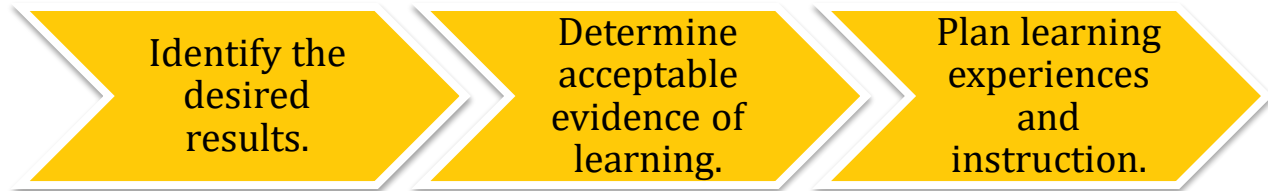# Aligning Your Outcomes to Your Course Assessments

Backward Design

Backward design is all about beginning with the end in mind. There are three stages:

Identify the desired results.	Determine acceptable evidence of learning.	Plan learning experiences and instruction.

- Start with your Course Objectives. What do you want students to be able to do by the end of the course?
- Then, determine how you will assess the students' progress. How will you measure their success in demonstrated learning?
- Once you know what they will do and how you will measure their progress, then you can determine what materials you'll need to support their learning.

Jay McTighe provides a template you can use to plot your backward design to download.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Student learning objectives (sometimes also referenced as outcomes) are the intended results of the learning and assessment in the class and should signify the actions that your students will be able to take. SLOs should be action-based and observable, since we cannot see learning, but we can observe behaviors. In addition, SLOs should be:

- **Student-centered**: SLOs should focus on what the students can reasonably accomplish in the allotted time (unit, module, course).
- **Measurable**: SLOs should reflect the ability to assess student behavior on a scale or against a standard.
- **Inclusive**: SLOs should reflect a commitment to equity and invite different experiences and backgrounds.
- **Higher-order thinking**: SLOs should challenge students to think critically and engage with the materials in a meaningful manner.

SLO AI Prompt:

Please act as a college professor for a mid-size regional university focused on student success. Using the provided information for **[COURSE]**, create a new set of Student Learning Outcomes that reflect a student-centered, measurable, inclusive, and higher-order thinking approach. Consider the course's emphasis on **[**problem-based team learning, critical thinking, and real-world application**]**. Ensure that the SLOs are aligned with the course's objectives and the overall curriculum framework. [INSERT CURRENT SYLLABUS HERE]

Transparent Assignment Design

Transparent assignment design, developed by Mary-Ann Winkelmes, Ph.D., centers around demystifying every assignment and grade, focusing on the Purpose, Task, and Criteria for Success.

Purpose	Task	Criteria
Skills	Deliverables	Rubric
Knowledge	Steps	Example
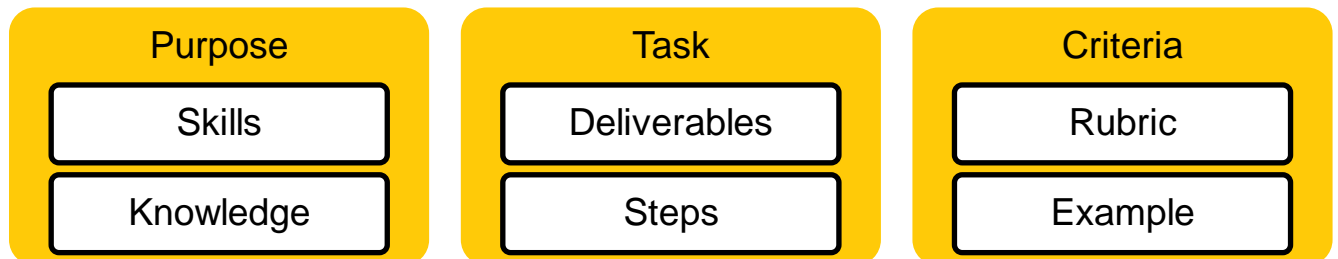
- **Purpose**: the reasoning for the assignment and how it benefits the students is explained, along with the specific skills and knowledge they will gain from doing the assignment.
- **Task**: the assignment is organized into steps, explaining clearly what to do, what to deliver, and when to do it.
- **Criteria**: a rubric or grading scale is provided, along with examples of good assignment submissions.

You can download the Transparent Assignment Design Template from the TILT Higher Ed website.

Transparent Assignment Design AI Prompts

You are an expert in the use of TiLT principles in higher education and writing assignments in the transparent assignment design format. Using the principles of transparent assignment design including purpose, skills, knowledge, tasks, and guidelines for success, please rewrite the following assignment from [COURSE].

"(Student Learning Objective)"
Using the above student learning objective, create an assignment suitable for a college course on (subject) in the transparent assignment design format.