

Steps to assure learning outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes are mapped against units to ensure that students are supported throughout their course to achieve these outcomes. According to TEQSA (Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency), students should be *introduced* to the outcomes and be given opportunities to *practise and demonstrate* the outcomes. At ECU, these three stages are referred to as:

- Introduced
- Consolidated
- Demonstrated

Every Course Learning Outcome must be explicitly taught at one of these three stages within the course, and every core unit must include at least one Course Learning Outcome.


Getting started

Step 1: Locate the resources

1. Ask your [School's Academic Programs Adviser \(AAP\)](#) for the current Course Learning Outcomes. (Note Course maps completed before 2017 will need to be mapped using the new templates. See CLO Resources for current mapping templates.)
2. Go to CLO Resources on the Learning Intranet. Download:
 - The ***ECU Course Learning Outcomes exemplars all courses***
 - Download the **ECU Course Mapping Template** for your course level
 - Access the unit outline from the [ECU Course Handbook](#)
3. Contact the [Senior Learning Designer for your School](#) for support in this process.

Step 1: Locate the resources

4. The *ECU Course Learning Outcomes exemplars all courses* provides you with:
 - Areas that should be covered in your Course Learning Outcomes (e.g. critical thinking skills, communication skills). Each area represents an outcome.
 - Levels required for outcomes at a graduate level, according to the AQF (Australian Qualification Framework)
5. Bachelor course at ECU will generally have eight learning outcomes aligned to the AQF (Australian Qualification Framework), covering the following areas:
 - 1) Knowledge
 - 2) Critical thinking
 - 3) Creative thinking
 - 4) Digital and multiple literacies

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- 5) Communication
 - 6) Diverse perspectives
 - 7) Collaborative learning
 - 8) Self-regulated learning

Note: Keeping these areas and numbering consistent will make mapping between disciplines and Schools much easier.

View the pages on the Learning Intranet under Course Learning Outcomes for more information about each area covered in the ECU Course Learning Outcomes

Step 3: Plan your outcomes

One way to approach this task is by using the backward design process. Because there are three levels, consider first what the outcome would be for a successful student of your course, and then consider what milestones they need to achieve to reach this outcome.

6. Using the template as a guide, consider:

- What you expect a student studying your course to be able to do at the end of your course.
- Write these expectations down as your Course Learning Outcomes, using the areas above as your guide.

7. Add this information to the **ECU Course Mapping Template**

Step 4: Map your Demonstrated level Outcomes

8. Select the unit in which the outcome is best demonstrated. This will probably be a final year unit.

- With the unit coordinator, determine the unit learning outcome that aligns to the Course Learning Outcome.
- Select the assignment where students will receive a mark and feedback regarding the outcome.
- Determine a strategy that will ensure students will be explicitly informed about the Course Learning Outcome that is demonstrated in this unit.
- Add this information to the ECU Course Mapping Template.

Step 5: Map your Consolidated and Introduced level Outcomes

9. Select the units where students are given opportunities to practise (consolidate) each Outcome. This will probably be the second year.

- With the unit coordinator, determine the unit learning outcome that aligns to the Course Learning Outcome.

- Select the assignment where students will receive feedback regarding the outcome.
- Determine a strategy that will ensure students will be explicitly informed about the Course Learning Outcome that is consolidated in this unit.
- Add this information to the ECU Course Mapping Template.

10. Select the units where students are introduced to each Outcome. (This will probably be a second year unit.

- With the unit coordinator, determine the unit learning outcome that aligns to the Course Learning Outcome.
- Select the assignment where students will receive feedback regarding the outcome.
- Determine a strategy that will ensure students will be explicitly informed about the Course Learning Outcome that is Introduced in this unit. Add this information to the ECU Course Mapping Template.

Step 6: Ensure all teaching staff members are aware of the Course Learning Outcomes in their unit

11. Teaching staff members will need to:

- explicitly inform students what outcomes are covered in their unit.
- provide feedback for students directly related to the Outcome in the assignment listed on the Course Map.
- Add this information to the ECU Course Mapping Template.

Step 7: Submit your Course Map to your School Associate Dean Teaching and Learning in for approval.

Step 8: Review this process at a minimum of once every five years.

Please contact clt@ecu.edu.au for more support.