



PROGRAMME DESIGN & ASSESSMENT

Programme Outcomes Mapping Matrix: User
Guide

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Programme Outcomes Mapping Matrix'©

Introduction

The Programme Outcomes Mapping Matrix has been designed to provide Programmes/and or Schools with a simple synoptic tool to map the relationship between programme outcomes and the extent that they are addressed and assessed in modules, which could include for example: all Stage 1 modules, modules within a major, or modules associated with a particular programme pathway.

The purpose of the matrix is provide a visual representation, using simple scoring and a colour coded pattern, of the degree to which programme outcomes appear to be covered in terms of:

1. In which modules do the programme outcomes appear to be addressed?
2. To what extent do they appear to be introduced, further developed or achieved?
3. Do some programme outcomes appear to be addressed more frequently than others?
4. Are there any programme outcomes which appear not to be addressed?
5. Holistically, is the extent to which programme outcomes appear to be addressed (introduced, further developed, achieved) within the modules appropriate?

The Matrix is intended to be developmental in its focus with a view to stimulating interpretation and review of outcomes and/or assessment practices amongst a curriculum team; it is not intended as an absolute measure of the achievement of programme outcomes.

Programme Outcomes

It is worth noting that programme outcomes may already exist in a number of guises, for example entries in the undergraduate prospectus or local curriculum information, where this is the case in bringing together information from different sources, a useful question for staff to consider is:

What do you value and hope that the students will achieve by the end of your programme?

It is sometime useful to prioritise what you think the students should still retain 1-2 years after the programme is completed (Fink, 2003, 2004).

It can be useful to think of **expressing** programme outcomes in terms of:

- High-level abilities the graduate will have at the end of the programme;
- How these abilities relate to the academic discipline;
- How they align to institutional and/or professional outcomes.

It can be useful to think of **writing** programme outcomes in terms of:

- Using action verbs
- Focusing on student outcomes
- Avoiding multiple outcomes in one outcome.
- It is likely that programme outcomes could be described in approximately 9-13
- Outcomes overall.

For further information on writing programme outcomes contact: geraldine.m.oneill@ucd.ie

Using the Programme Outcomes Mapping Matrix

1. The Matrix template is set out as a spreadsheet which presents programme outcomes on the left-hand side vertically, module titles are inserted horizontally.
2. A scoring system is used as follows:
1= Introduced; 2= Further Developed and 3 = Achieved

This scoring system is automatically colour-coded on the Matrix spreadsheet

3. In addition the character **A** can be used to indicate whether a programme outcome is assessed summatively (for a grade) or not. It is assumed that some programme outcomes may be assessed formatively (not graded) in the early stages.
4. To commence scoring: take the first programme outcome and relate it to the first module and decide what score should be applied, 1,2, or 3. Insert the appropriate number (1,2 or3) into the box and if the outcome is assessed summatively also **add A**.
5. If the programme outcome is addressed, but not assessed summatively the box should not contain the character A
6. If the programme outcome is not addressed in the module, no score should be applied and the module box should remain blank.
7. Continue horizontally across all the modules with the first program outcome. Then repeat the process with the second programme outcome, until all outcomes have been scored across all modules.
8. When all programme outcomes are mapped to the modules, the matrix will show a colour coded concentration based on the scores applied. This allows a visual representation of the degree to which programme outcomes appear to be addressed in the selected group of modules.

Reviewing the completed Matrix

1. When complete, overall the matrix will show a colour coded pattern of the distribution of the programme outcomes which appear to be achieved across the modules for that stage. The programme outcomes are automatically summed into a 'weighted total'. This allows the "concentration" of the programme outcomes to be read in relation to the group of modules included in the matrix for each stage
2. The number of times a programme outcome is assessed in that stage is also calculated ('how often assessed'). This allows a review of the link between programme outcomes and assessment. In reviewing the stage assessments, it is also useful to discuss the use of different methods of assessment (exams, journals, lab report, etc) and to note is there is an over or under emphasis on certain types.

For further information on the 'Programme Outcomes Mapping Matrix', please contact: teachingandlearning@ucd.ie