Course Goals and Objectives

Standard		
Standard	**Annotation**	**Example**
Overall course goals are clearly stated.	The course goals give students the big picture regarding what they should get out of the course	Goals are clearly stated in the syllabus in order for students to understand what they will learn in the course.
Course goals are relevant to the course purpose/level.	Course goals need to be appropriate for the content that is to be covered and the academic level of the students who are expected to take the class.	A lower 1000 or 2000 level course will most likely require students to be familiar with a body of information. A higher level undergraduate or graduate course will most likely expect students to peform tasks related to synthesis, analysis and evaluation.
Learning objectives are measurable and can be utilized as a measure of student performance/success in the course.	Learning objectives state what students will be able to do when they complete a segment of learning. These objectives are measured by assessments.	In an introductory astronomy class, many of the objectives use keywords such as, identify, list, summarize, discuss, and demonstrate.
Learning objectives align with the learning activities and assessment activities.	Activities and assessments are designed based on the objectives in order to measure student understanding.	A sample objective in an introductory astronomy class might be: The student will identify 8 types of stars with 100% accuracy. Such an objective could be measured through a quiz or test.
Exemplary		
Exemplary	**Annotation**	**Example**
Learning objectives are posted in the weekly overview or subsections of the course. These objectives also relate to the overall course goals.	It is a good idea to provide the learning objectives in the module, chapter, or unit where they will be used.	The first week of instruction in an introductory astronomy course might list objectives that support a terminal objective for the module. Each successive week would build upon the knowledge and skills learned during the first week.
Assignments and assessments specify the learning objectives that are relevant to the task/assignment.	As part of the assignment instructions, include the learning objective that is supported by the assignment.	In an introductory astronomy class, the students evaluate a model sun and its solar system for astronomical anomalies. Supporting objectives require students to: identify stars, outline physical properties of planets, and list current theories about the evolution and death of stars.

Supporting Research

MIT Teaching and Learning Laboratory. Learning Objectives. Retrieved from: http://web.mit.edu/tll/teaching-materials/learning-objectives/index-learning-objectives.html

Jones.J. Putting Learning Goals Into Your Syllabus. *The Chronicle of Higher Education.* August 2009. Retrieved from: http://chronicle.com/blogs/profhacker/put-learning-goals-into-your-syllabus/22614