



Quality Assurance Processes

Program Objectives

The development of Program objectives is required in both the Cyclical Program Review process and the New Program Proposal process. Program objectives

including referring to goals for students beyond the program, “such as to prepare students for study in allied disciplines at both the undergraduate and graduate levels as well as for professional work.” They can also “describe the range of learning opportunities the program intends to offer to students, for example, opportunities to engage with professionals, gain research experience, or acquire foundational knowledge of the field.”

It can be difficult to distinguish between program-level learning outcomes, which are the basis for curricular alignment within programs, and program objectives. There are no hard and fast rules, but the following can help in distinguishing them:

Program Objectives	Program-Level Learning Outcomes
Broader in scope (could align with a cluster of program-level learning outcomes)	Narrower in scope (could align with a cluster of course-level learning outcomes)
Statement of purpose or goal	What the learner will be able to do when the goal/purpose is met
Tell students what is special about the program	Tell students what they will achieve by completing the program

Can include a student's access to resources such as labs, experiential learning opportunities, internships, or study abroad programs.	Will be statements of the skills, knowledge, and dispositions a student will gain by using those resources.
What will be taught	What will be learned
Situate the program in the context of the discipline as a whole	Make explicit the expectations for student success by forming the criteria for assessment and evaluation
May not be measurable	Are measurable
Tell students what they will be able to do after completing the program, such professional work	Tell students what they are expected to be able to do in order to complete the program
Could reference a public or social good/need, such as educating students to provide necessary services	Reference the abilities students will gain and develop

Program objectives connect to the Principal's Strategic Framework and the program-level learning outcomes connect to the Degree Level Expectations.

The following resources will help units frame their program objectives:

1. [The Principal's Strategic Framework](#)
2. [Queen's Major Maps](#)
3. The program's student-facing website

The following examples have been adapted only slightly from statements on program websites:

Chemistry, BScH¹

1. Students will engage in hands-on learning experiences and will gain transferable skills such as working in a team, critical thinking, and problem solving.
2. Students will learn to operate unique, state of the art, laboratory equipment, such as the instruments in the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance facility.
3. Students will be prepared for graduate studies in Chemistry, to work in governmental or

2. Students will have the opportunity to engage in international experiential learning.
3. Students will learn to connect big-picture analysis with grounded problem-solving