

Curriculum Mapping

Curriculum mapping is a process of documenting and analyzing the structure of program, and how individual courses work together to support student success through each year of study. It facilitates both summative program reporting for accreditation and IQAP purposes, as well as formative planning and enhancement by identifying which courses contribute to specific program outcomes, at what level of mastery, and articulating how this is assessed. Curriculum mapping also supports review and planning by making it easier for Departments and Faculties to identify gaps in their programs, bottlenecks or trouble-spots that students may face, as well as areas of program strength.

Alignment of Outcomes

In a constructively aligned program, the courses are carefully coordinated to ensure steady development or scaffolding from introduction to mastery of the learning outcomes, leading to achievement of the intended program-level outcomes. Curriculum mapping is most effective when outcomes at each level, from course to the provincial Degree Level Expectations, are aligned.

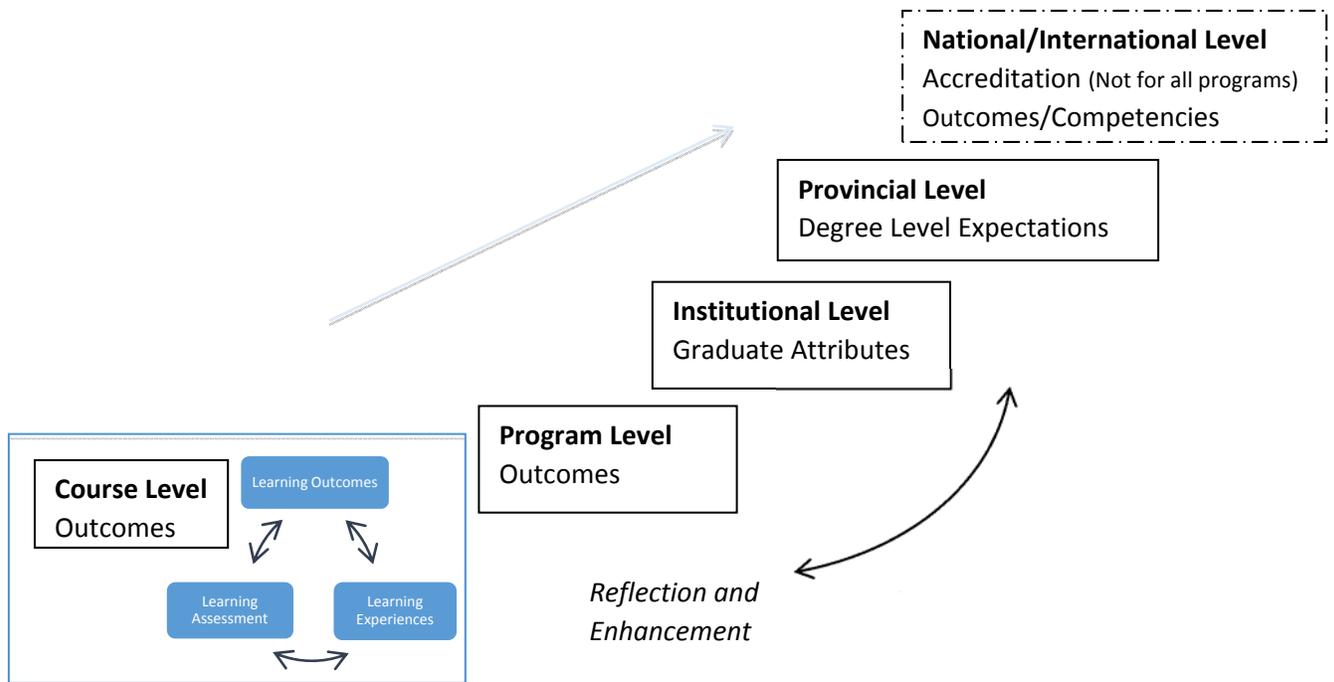


Figure 1: Learning Outcome Alignment from at the course to the national level

What does it look like?

A basic program curriculum map identifies all of the program level learning outcomes in one column (or row), and then lists all of the core courses in that program. In the cells, any course that contributes to the achievement of each program outcome would be marked, indicating whether that course introduces, reinforces, or is an opportunity for students to demonstrate mastery of that knowledge, skill, or value. Assessments that measure achievement are also included. When completed, program curriculum maps are very helpful for identifying gaps and strengths, as well as potential bottlenecks or trouble-spots where students may struggle.

Sample Program Curriculum Map Template 1: This structure allows for both easy reading of program learning outcomes and relatively easy scrolling through each year of a program, particularly when working with a spreadsheet.

	*I = Introduction R=Reinforcement M=Mastery	Course 1	Course 2	Course 3	Course 4	Course 5
Program outcome 1	A. Indicate I, R, or M*					
	B. Identify Assessments					
Program outcome 2	A. Indicate I, R, or M*					
	B. Identify Assessments					
Program outcome 3	A. Indicate I, R, or M*					
	B. Identify Assessments					

Sample Program Curriculum Map Template 2: This structure is quite useful for mapping long lists of courses, particularly when printing the map as a document.

Program Learning Outcomes *I = Introduction R=Reinforcement M=Mastery	Program outcome 1		Program outcome 2		Program outcome 3	
	A. Indicate I, R, or M*	B. Identify Assessments	A. Indicate I, R, or M*	B. Identify Assessments	A. Indicate I, R, or M*	B. Identify Assessments
Course 1						
Course 2						
Course 3						
Course 4						
Course 5						

See also the following links for examples of alternative formats from different institutions.

- Curriculum Mapping and Design, Carleton University
http://carleton.ca/viceprovost/wp-content/uploads/sample_nursing_curriculum_map.pdf
- University of West Florida: Embedded Assignments Curriculum Map
[http://uwf.edu/media/university-of-west-florida/offices/cutla/documents/Sample-Curriculum-Map-\(Assignments-Embedded-Assessments\).pdf](http://uwf.edu/media/university-of-west-florida/offices/cutla/documents/Sample-Curriculum-Map-(Assignments-Embedded-Assessments).pdf)

Why Do It?

Curriculum Mapping has many benefits for students, individual Faculty members, for Departments and Faculties and for the Institution as a whole.

- Clarifies for students what they are learning, and how the courses they are taking fit into the “big picture”
- Helps students to communicate their achievements to employers
- Helps orient new instructors to course and program requirements, and the value and place of those courses within the program
- Expands awareness and examination of assessment strategies, and easy identification of where in a program students will have opportunities to engage in high impact practices
- Improves collective understanding of curriculum and individuals’ contributions to the effectiveness of the curriculum
- Facilitates designing and refining programs
- Allows the institution as a whole to more easily communicate the skills and expertise of graduates of a given program to employers, prospective students, parents, and community members

References

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