



Making the learning outcomes and expected standards of my unit clearer to my students (USE item 1)

“Well-expressed statements of intended learning outcomes help students to identify their own targets, and work systematically towards demonstrating their achievement of these targets”

Race, P. 2001, *The Lecturer's Toolkit: A Practical Guide to Learning, Teaching and Assessment*, Kogan Page, London, p. 21.

If your students highlight this as an area of concern in their Unit of Study Evaluation you might try the following:

- Ensure that **learning outcomes are clearly stated in the unit of study outline** (learning outcomes are what your students will know and be able to do as a result of engaging in the learning process). Refer your students to the unit outline regularly throughout the teaching period
- **Base criteria for assessment** (since students really care about marks!) **on the demonstration of intended learning outcomes**
- **Use the online feedback tool (ReView)**. This software helps students to understand how their assessment tasks have been designed to assess their development or achievement of specific, professionally relevant graduate attributes.
- **Demonstrate the professional relevance** of specific learning outcomes
- Explain **how the unit relates to other units in the discipline** or program and, if relevant, professional practice in the field
- **Relate student learning outcomes to what they have previously learned** or will learn in the future in other units within their program
- Demonstrate how **different resources for learning in a unit interrelate**. For example, how lectures, unit readings, text, tutorials, Blackboard activities and resources and assessment interrelate
- **Link detailed content back to the key concepts** so that students don't get lost in the detail. It is helpful to keep referring back to a unit outline
- **Encourage students to make connections between topics**. See the documents co-developed by the [Professional and Organisational Development Network in Higher Education \(POD\)](#) for some useful ideas on how to do this
- **Ensure that everyone teaching into a unit agree on the learning outcomes** that students are to be supported in achieving. Working as a teaching team will create a more coherent and consistent student experience. See [Curtin University's eVALUate project information](#) for further great ideas.
- Other ideas and exemplars for making your standards and learning objectives clearer are collected on the [Faculty of Economics and Business UoS website](#).
- YOUR IDEAS!