

A Quick Guide to Curriculum Mapping

Dr. Beth Hinga, Director of Assessment
University of Nebraska Kearney

GOAL

The goal of curriculum mapping is to assure that your department is teaching information relevant to your stated Student Learning Outcomes (in WEAVEonline) to each and every student that completes your major as stated in the catalog. This should be a group exercise, involving each faculty member that teaches the required courses in the major. One person may make assumptions about what is being taught in each required course, but communication between instructors assures that the perception matches reality.

DISCUSSING INSTRUCTION

During discussions about instruction related to the Student Learning Outcomes, you will probably recognize that students are introduced to material early in their careers. At that point, all you require is **knowledge** (of new terminology and definitions, basic mechanics of writing and citing sources). In subsequent courses, you expect a higher level of cognitive ability in your students. They should be able to conduct **analysis** of information and come to correct conclusions. In upper-level courses such as capstones, senior seminars, research experiences, internships, etc. you should expect your majors to be able to **synthesize** knowledge and apply it. There should be a natural progression from one level to the next.

METHOD

A separate and distinct curriculum map should be created for every degree program in your department. A curriculum map should be a one- or two-page document in table form. In the first column, list only the courses required of all majors in that degree program. In the top row, create a column for each Student Learning Outcome.

In the table, mark a cell with a **K** if you expect students to acquire new low-level knowledge related to that Student Learning Outcome. Mark a cell with an **A** if you expect students in that course to analyze information and come to well-supported conclusions. Mark a cell with an **S** if you expect students in that course to synthesize information and apply it. Not every cell needs to have a letter, but every Student Learning Outcome should progress from **K** to **A** to **S**. It's ok to have both **K** and **A** or **A** and **S** in the same cell.

EXAMPLE

An example curriculum map is found on the following page. It should include the title Curriculum Map, the degree program to which this map pertains, and the date it was prepared.

Curriculum Map

Degree Program: BA, Course Mapping

Spring 2013

Required Courses	Demonstrate understanding of core knowledge in the discipline.	Demonstrate ability to find and use relevant library resources for research.	Demonstrate ability to communicate effectively within the discipline, orally and in writing.	Demonstrate ability to work effectively in the discipline as supervised by internship coordinator.
COUR 101	K			
COUR 105	K	K	K	
COUR 201		A	K	K
COUR 202	A		A	
COUR 375	A			K
COUR 401	S	S		K
COUR 485	S		S	A,S

K = knowledge

A = Analysis

S = Synthesis

Or alternately, you could use these designations if they make more sense to you:

I = introduced

D = developed

M = Mastered