

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT INSTITUTIONAL OUTCOMES

- 1. What are institutional outcomes?** Institutional outcomes are broad statements which represent the values of an institution. They help shape and inform the academic culture of an institution and decide the type of graduate profile an institution aspires to have. They are achieved by the collective experiences offered to students which include courses, co-curricular activities, student services, and other educational experiences. There is an expectation in higher education and by our regional accreditation (The Higher Learning Commission) that Andrews University has institutional outcomes which are used in the assessment process and are known to all programs.
- 2. Does Andrews University currently have institutional outcomes?** Yes, Andrews University currently has 14 institutional outcomes (sometimes referred to as “goal statements” which can be found through this link andrews.edu/about/mission). These outcomes guided the assessment and program review processes since they were created. In order to have a more engaged culture of assessment, known and implemented common goals across programs, the Faculty Senate in collaboration with the Office of Institutional Effectiveness updated, modified, and articulated a set of reduced and improved learning outcomes. These outcomes have been referred to as the AU Unified Framework of Outcomes (AU UFO) since the process began. Moving forward, we will refer to these outcomes as Institutional Outcomes.
- 3. What is the relationship between the course, program, and institutional outcomes?** Institutional outcomes are grounded on the university’s mission. They focus on the abilities, knowledge, and skills that students develop from their engagement in the university experiences including courses, co-curricular activities, institutional activities (for example Change Day), student services, and other experiences. Institutional outcomes provide guidance to program directors and departments for the development of program outcomes. **Program outcomes** are mapped to the institutional outcomes and show how students achieve institutional outcomes in that academic program. Program outcomes emphasize the specific knowledge, skills, and dispositions students can expect to achieve upon completion of a particular course of study. **Course outcomes** articulate what students will know and be able to do as