Developing Program-level Learning Goals

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Each faculty member in the program or department should complete this worksheet and then meet to compare and discuss. The program or department should aim for three to five broad goals that describe the characteristics of graduates in the major.

1. List any department goal that you know. These might be found in the Bulletin, a program brochure, in the department mission statement, or on the department website.

2. Review disciplinary or professional associations' standards and guidelines. These are increasingly good sources for competency and learning goals statements developed specifically for a particular discipline.

3. Describe your ideal student. What are their skills, knowledge, values, and strengths?
    a. What do they know?

    b. What can they do?

    c. What do they care about?

4. What are the fundamental ideas and abilities every graduate of your program have?

5. Research program learning goals at other institutions.

Adapted from the *OAPA Handbook Program-Based Review and Assessment*, University of Massachusetts Amherst