

PEARL Glossary

PEARL word	Student Affairs word	Academic Affairs word	Description
Institutional organization	Division of Student Affairs	Academic Affairs	Top level organizational structure
Unit / College	Unit (e.g. Student Involvement)	College (e.g. College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources)	2nd level organizational structure
Department	Department (e.g. Leadership Development)	Department (e.g. Department of Entomology)	A group of similar programs may be organized into a department (some departments may contain only 1 program)
Program	Program Area (e.g. Leadershape)	Academic Program (e.g. Insect Science)	A series of activities or courses run by a group of faculty or staff for a group of students with a common set of learning outcomes
Outcome	Learning and development outcome	Learning outcome	Outcomes depict cognitive abilities or affective dimensions that you desire your program to instill or enhance
Assessment	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment is any effort to gather, analyze, and interpret evidence with the intent of using that evidence to make improvements
Opportunity to learn	Strategy	Opportunity to learn	Describes the activities, experiences, or lessons that enable students to achieve the outcome
Question of interest	Question of interest	Research question	States a question that is related to the learning outcome that the program wants to answer – provides focus and may address potential program change