

University of Alaska Anchorage

STUDENT AFFAIRS STUDENT OUTCOMES

SASO



STUDENT AFFAIRS STUDENT OUTCOMES

provide a common language and assessment framework to guide efforts in supporting the holistic learning and development of University of Alaska Anchorage students with priority to the areas of sense of self, balanced life choices, global citizenship, and creative application.

STUDENT AFFAIRS STUDENT OUTCOMES



SENSE OF SELF – Integrates an awareness of personal skills, abilities, values, and beliefs into the development of identity, sense of purpose, motivation, commitment to self-respect, and goal realization.

- Accepts personal accountability and demonstrates integrity and commitment to ethical reasoning
- Illustrates willingness to examine and contemplate one's own belief system and consider constructive feedback from others in order to improve one's self, work, and environment
- Sets, articulates, and demonstrates commitment and initiative to pursuing individual goals



BALANCED LIFE CHOICES – Makes decisions that support academic, career, and personal success by accessing resources and engaging in environments that promote health, reduce risk, and create balance among wide-ranging pursuits.

- Articulates the relationship between physical, mental, and spiritual health and wellness in accomplishing goals
- Creates strategies for financial planning and understands the implications of money management decisions
- Leverages career exploration opportunities and professional preparation to achieve productive and satisfying lifestyles



GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP – Engages collaboratively and cooperatively with others, while incorporating diverse perspectives and contributing one's talents to make a difference within the community.

- Develops effective leadership skills to guide or support others in achieving a common goal and encourage commitment and action in others
- Establishes and sustains meaningful and supportive relationships with others through respect and appreciation for similarities and differences between cultures and group dynamics
- Considers the welfare of others while participating in society with a sense of civic and social responsibility



CREATIVE APPLICATION – Connects knowledge, resources, and life experiences to generate new insights, solve problems, and create strategies to apply in diverse settings.

- Demonstrates independence and interdependence and maintains a sense of flexibility, adaptability, management of ambiguity, and resilience
- Distinguishes appropriate communication methods, use of technology, and level of professionalism for different situations and audiences
- Recognizes acquired transferrable skills and one's capacity to create new understandings from learning activities, reflections, and interactions with others.

ASSESSING STUDENT LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

UAA'S MISSION

The mission of the University of Alaska Anchorage is to discover and disseminate knowledge through teaching, research, engagement and creative expression. Located in Anchorage and on community campuses in Southcentral Alaska, UAA is committed to serving the higher education needs of the state, its communities and its diverse peoples. The University of Alaska Anchorage is an open access university with academic programs leading to occupational endorsements; undergraduate and graduate certificates; and associate, baccalaureate and graduate degrees in a rich, diverse and inclusive environment.

STUDENT AFFAIRS MISSION

Together we provide an environment for our diverse student population to reach their greatest potential through inspiration, accessibility, and support.

Student Affairs (SA) has been intentionally building assessment capacity and developing a culture of evidence since 2011. With national research supporting that “learning and personal development during the undergraduate years occurs as a result of students engaging in both academic and non-academic activities, both inside and outside the classroom”, SA demonstrates its commitment to student learning by making the development and measurement of student learning and programmatic outcomes a priority (Astin, 1993; Pascarella and Terenzini, 1991).

BUILDING A CULTURE OF LEARNING

Throughout FY13, SA departments engaged in student learning outcomes workshops and trainings led by the Student Affairs Assessment Team (A-Team), Dr. Maggie Culp - a nationally recognized educator, author, and consultant, and the Coordinator of SA Research, Assessment and Staff Development and began drafting outcomes. SA departments continued to advance the student learning outcomes agenda in FY14 and FY15 by establishing at least two primary student learning outcomes and developing an assessment plan for measuring each. Each year, this effort resulted in the compilation of approximately 40 specific and measurable student learning outcomes that illustrate the value of SA programs and services.

CREATING A COMMON LANGUAGE

To further support institutional alignment efforts, Student Affairs Advocates for Visible Learning (SA ePortfolio team), in collaboration with the A-Team and Student Affairs Leadership Team, established the new Student Affairs Student Outcomes (SASO's). Student Affairs aims to create and sustain an environment that supports students to attain these desired outcomes and become the best versions of themselves.

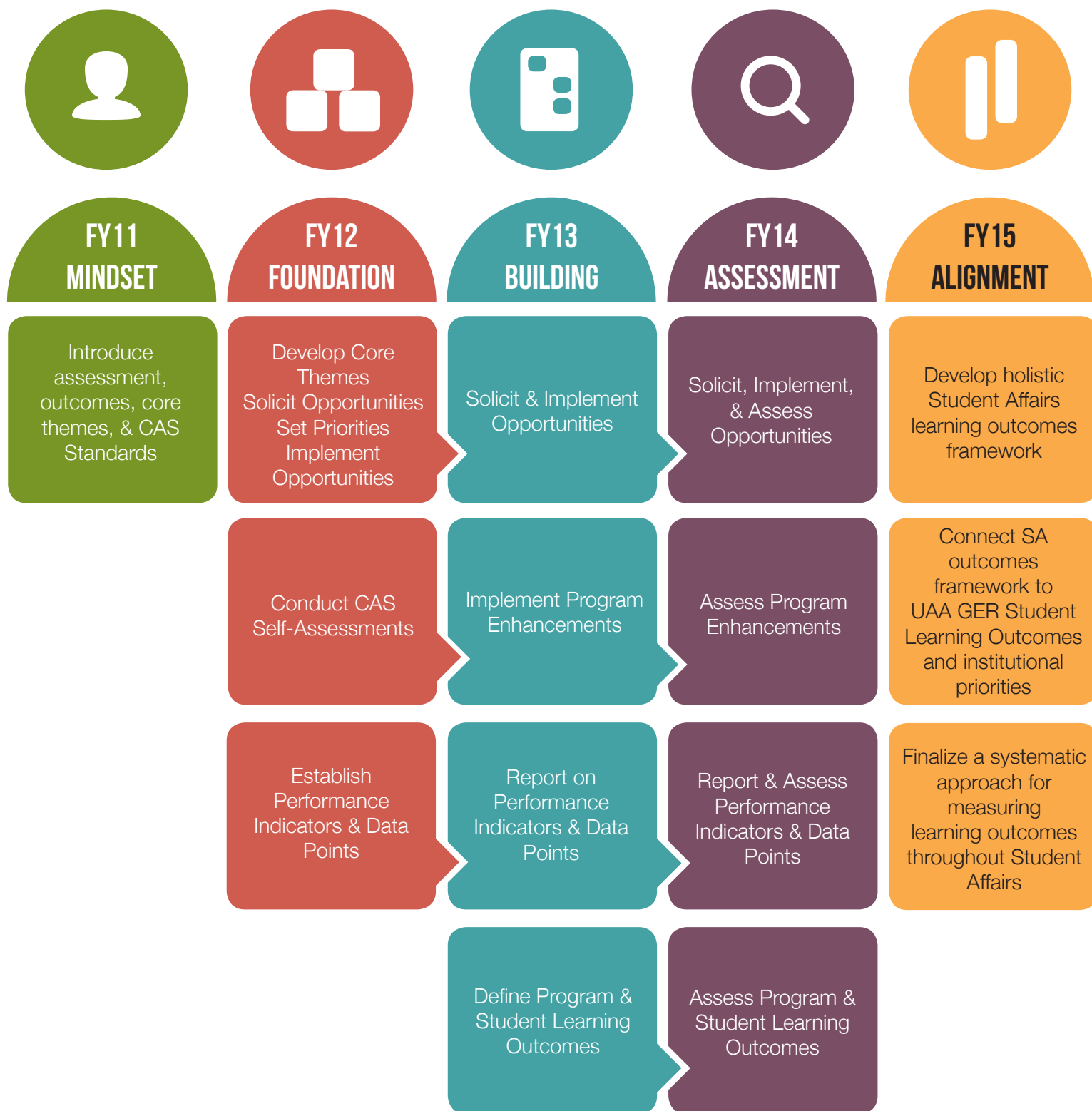
SASO's provides a framework for Student Affairs to align engagement activities and services to student learning and development and a systematic approach for the measurement of student learning outcomes Student Affairs wide. This framework serves as a guide and common language in understanding contributions to student learning, creating meaningful interactions with students, presenting opportunities to students, and building connections between learning and growth occurring throughout their academic coursework, career preparation, outside-the classroom activities, and daily life.

DEVELOPING A HOLISTIC FRAMEWORK

Student Affairs Student Outcomes support the holistic learning and development of students with priority to the areas of sense of self, balanced life choices, global citizenship, and creative application.

Introduced throughout FY16, SA departments will build on SASO's by supporting at least two learning outcomes that align with this framework and measuring those outcomes throughout the year. FY17 will also introduce a common question bank to support the systematic measurement of the SASO's.

STUDENT AFFAIRS ORGANIZATION DEVELOPMENT PROCESS



INSTITUTIONAL ALIGNMENT

Through a holistic ethos of learning Student Affairs is able to clearly demonstrate alignment with and support of the institution's mission, core themes, and General Education Requirement Student Learning Outcomes. In accordance with the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities' (NWCCU) - Standards for Accreditation, section 2.D Student Support Resources, SASO's is a clear demonstration that student affairs co-curricular activities are consistent with the institution's mission, core themes, programs, and services and are governed appropriately (Standards 2.D.11).

This tool is grounded in the learning and development outcomes identified by the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS), Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP) essential learning outcomes by the Associate of American Colleges & Universities (AAC&U), and attributes valued most by employers from the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE).

The graphic below serves as a visual representation of the complementary alignment across UAA Core Themes, Student Affairs Student Outcomes, and UAA General Education Requirement Student Learning Outcomes.



UAA Core Themes				
Teaching and Learning	Sense of Self	Balanced Life Choices		Creative Application
Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity		Balanced Life Choices		Creative Application
Student Success	Sense of Self		Global Citizenship	
UAA Community			Global Citizenship	Creative Application
Public Square (Community Engagement)			Global Citizenship	Creative Application
UAA General Education Requirement Student Learning Outcomes				
Communicate effectively in a variety of contexts and formats.				Creative Application
Reason mathematically and analyze quantitative and qualitative data competently to reach sound conclusions.				
Relate knowledge to the historical context in which it developed and the human problems it addresses.				
Interpret different systems of aesthetic representation and understand their historical and cultural contexts.				
Investigate the complexity of human institutions and behavior to better understand interpersonal, group and cultural dynamics.			Global Citizenship	
Identify ways in which science has advanced the understanding of important natural processes.				
Locate and use relevant information to make appropriate personal and professional decisions.		Balanced Life Choices		
Adopt critical perspectives for understanding the forces of globalization and diversity.			Global Citizenship	
Integrate knowledge and employ skills gained to synthesize creative thinking, critical judgment and personal experience in a meaningful and coherent manner.				Creative Application