



INTERCONNECTED LEARNING FRAMEWORKS

What are learning frameworks?

Learning frameworks are tools that specify learning outcomes or competencies that define, classify, and recognize education, learner, military, and industry expectations at increasing levels of difficulty. Such frameworks provide connection points for aligning learning opportunities, awarding credentials, translating learning, and determining equivalencies and transfer of learning across sectors. They also provide alternative avenues for learners with unrecognized or undocumented skills to acquire credentials.

What is the purpose of a framework?

Frameworks are not all alike; there are different purposes and assumptions behind their development and use. The **purpose** provides the reasons behind establishing the framework and the issues it is trying to solve. The premises shape the approach to its design, who has been involved in the development, what research and background materials are considered, and how and why it is structured in the way that it is.

How are frameworks organized?

Frameworks can be organized on:

- **Source** - who designed the framework (education, industry, or community efforts);

- **Targeted learning or competencies** addressed in the framework (prior learning, new or emergent learning, and culminating or convergent learning);
- **Intention** (articulating learning or competencies; assessing learning or competencies; standards for a field; designing curriculum, or connecting competencies, curriculum, and credentials); and
- **Purpose** –why the framework was developed and the issues being addressed.

What can you do with a learning framework?

Learning frameworks provide a point of connection with which educational experiences and opportunities can align. Mapping our distinct learning outcomes to an identified learning framework serves as a translation tool for other educational providers. Such an approach also allows for rolling up from individual demonstrations of learning across a wide ecosystem of education experiences to the learning framework. Learning frameworks provide a mechanism by which learners can be aware of and translate to various audiences the knowledge, skills, and abilities they possess.

Degree Qualifications Profile (DQP)

The DQP, a proficiency framework, informs what students should know and be able to do upon earning a college degree. The DQP as a learning framework encompasses the entirety of a degree.



High-Impact Educational Practices (HIPs)

HIPs are the practices that help/enable students to attain learning identified in the frameworks. While not considered a framework in and of itself, they provide the pathways to achievement of shared learning outcomes.



American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) Essential Learning Outcomes (ELOs)

As part of its Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP) initiative, AAC&U developed the **ELOs**, a disciplinary framework, which guide students' progress through college with a focus on liberal or general education.



Association of American Colleges and Universities

VALUE Rubrics

AAC&U developed the **VALUE Rubrics** to evaluate the extent to which students have attained learning from either DQP or ELOs. In total, there are 16 rubrics that were developed by panels of faculty representing various institutions, regions, and disciplines.



	Essential Learning Outcomes (ELOs)	Knowledge of Human Cultures & the Physical / Natural World	Intellectual & Practical Skills	Personal & Social Responsibility	Integrative & Applied Learning	
	Degree Qualifications Profile	Specialized Knowledge Broad & Integrative Knowledge	Intellectual Skills	Civic & Global Learning	Applied & Collaborative Learning	
High-Impact Practices	Learning Communities	✓			✓	
	Common Intellectual Experience	✓				
	Undergraduate Research	✓	✓			
	Internships	✓			✓	
	Capstones	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	ePortfolios	✓			✓	
	First-Year Seminars		✓		✓	
	Writing-Intensive Courses		✓			
	Diversity /Global Learning		✓	✓	✓	
	Service Learning / Community-Based Learning			✓	✓	✓
	Collaborative Assignments & Projects	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
VALUE Rubrics	Civic Engagement		✓	✓		
	Creative Thinking		✓	✓		
	Critical Thinking	✓	✓			
	Ethical Reasoning		✓			
	Inquiry & Analysis	✓	✓			
	Integrative Learning	✓			✓	
	Reading	✓	✓			
	Quantitative Literacy	✓	✓			
	Global Learning		✓	✓	✓	
	Information Literacy		✓			
	Oral Communication		✓			
	Teamwork				✓	
	Written Communication		✓			
	Intercultural Knowledge & Competence	✓			✓	
	Problem Solving		✓	✓		
Foundations & Skills for Lifelong Learning			✓	✓		

