

Curriculum Map (Rubric IV)

A curriculum map is a visual tool that aligns Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) with the courses in a degree program. It shows where each outcome is Introduced (I), Reinforced (R), Mastered (M), and Assessed (A), helping faculty ensure intentional design and progression.

Why Curriculum Mapping Matters

Curriculum maps are essential for:

- Demonstrating alignment between courses and learning outcomes
- Supporting accreditation and external review processes
- Identifying gaps or redundancies in instruction
- Ensuring students have a clear path to mastering key skills and knowledge

Steps to Create a Curriculum Map

1. List the Program Learning Outcomes (**PLOs**)
2. Identify **required** courses in the major
3. Structure courses and events in the order they occur within the student journey.
4. Determine where each PLO is **Introduced (I), Reinforced (R), and Mastered (M)**
5. **Determine where each PLO is Assessed (A)**
6. Use a table to visualize the alignment
7. Review the map with faculty to ensure accuracy and progression
8. **Share** the map with adjuncts and majors

EXAMPLES

	WEAK				STRONG		
	PLO1	PLO2	PLO3		PLO1	PLO2	PLO3
XYZ 100	I	I		XYZ 100	I	I	I
XYZ 200				XYZ 200	R	R	R
XYZ 220 Elective	R			XYZ 300	R	M	M + A
XYZ 300				XYZ 400	M + A	A	
XYZ 340 Elective	R			This map shows: • All majors have the same opportunities to learn all PLOs • The PLOs are taught throughout the curriculum • Assessment occurs at or close to mastery			
XYZ 400	M + A	M + A					
Internship Elective			M + A				
This map shows: • Not all majors are trained on PLOs 1 and 3. PLO 3 only applies to those with an internship. • Too much time passes between introduction and mastery of PLO 2. • Two required courses fail to train students on the PLOs.							

Tips for a Meaningful Curriculum Map

Focus on required courses to ensure consistency

Ensure a logical progression from I to R to M

Discuss the role of required courses that do not cover any PLOs

Assess when mastery is expected or as close to it as possible

Avoid overloading courses with too many PLOs

Use the map to guide curriculum updates

Need Help?

There are no one-solution-fits-all in assessment. The Office of Institutional Effectiveness (OIE) can support you at every step—ensuring your approach fits your program's goals, resources, and capacity.

[In-depth Assessment Guides](#)

[OIE Website](#)