

Assessment of Category B learning outcomes for Physics students

Department of Applied Physics

Summary

The outcome-based curriculum currently adopted by PolyU specifically groups all the intended learning outcomes into two categories, with Category A embracing professional/academic knowledge and skills, and Category B, attributes of all-roundedness. While front-line teachers in AP are experienced with the assessment of Category A outcomes, they may not be so with Category B outcomes, which are much less tangible. It is the aim of the present proposal to develop simple assessment tools for Category B outcomes, both at the programme level and at the subject level, to be administered to AP students. The development and implementation of these tools would involve professionals outside the department, and expenses are needed as consultancy fees or honorarium.

Objectives

1. To develop assessment tools for Category B outcomes for students in the Department of Applied Physics, and
2. To apply these tools to AP students at different stages of their study.

Methodology and Action Plan

1. The Category B outcomes, both at the programme level (for Programme 11039 and 11041) and at the subject level (all subjects offered by AP), will be summarized. Discussion with programme leaders and subject lecturers is needed for the details of these outcomes. (3 months)
2. Experts/professionals familiar with or experienced in assessing generic or transferable skills will be identified. Potential targets would include SAO, EDC, HKIE, etc. Suitable employers or industrial organizations would also be involved to give input on setting up yardsticks for the outcomes. (3 months)
3. Simple assessment tools which could be easily administered will be developed in consultation with these experts. At the subject level, the difference in the nature of the subject (lecture-based, lab-based, seminar-based, and project-based) has to be taken into consideration in developing the assessment tool. (6 months)
4. Test runs will be carried out for assessing students'/graduates' attainment of Category B programme outcomes and subject outcomes [for selected subjects]. This may involve personnel from outside the department, for example, in conducting interviews, etc. As an incentive, students participating as test objects may be considered as joining a co-curricular activity and thus fulfilling that requirement. (6 months)

5. Refinement of these assessment tools after step 4. (3 months)