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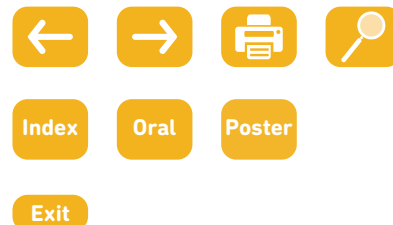


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RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LEARNING OUTCOMES, COMPETENCIES AND FORMATIVE AND SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING IN FARM ANIMALS BIOSECURITY COURSES

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Introduction

Constructive alignment (CA) that includes learning outcomes (LOs), competencies (COs), formative assessment (FA) and summative assessment (SA) of student learning is very important for the successful teaching by educators and the acquisition of student competencies.

Objectives

The paper aims to analyze relationships between LOs, COs, FA and SA of student learning in farm animals biosecurity (FAB) courses and their CA.

Material and Methods

The authors' focus group analyzed 51 papers to identify issues related to the definition of LOs, COs, FA and SA related to FAB courses, and tables were created, illustrating relationships between LOs, COs, FA and SA for FAB courses.

Results

The FAB courses should equip students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to implement biosecurity in various farm settings. Three core competency groups are identified: generic (instrumental, interpersonal, systemic), 21st-century skills, and program-specific competencies. Students must develop a strong foundation in biosecurity principles, including risk analysis, disease transmission, and prevention. This enables them to conduct risk assessments and implement biosecurity measures effectively. Decision-making at strategic, tactical, and operational levels is essential for addressing evolving challenges. Biosecurity expertise also requires sociocultural awareness, communication, and problem-solving skills. Assessment should combine formative and summative approaches. Formative assessment provides feedback, while summative assessment evaluates final competency achievement. Traditional exams test theoretical knowledge, while practical assessments—such as risk analysis, case studies, and simulations—measure students' ability to apply knowledge in real-world situations.

Conclusions

The LOs define expected knowledge, skills, and attitudes, while COs ensure students develop expertise in biosecurity applications. Assessment methods verify the achievement of these COs. A competency-based approach should blend foundational knowledge with experiential learning and rigorous assessment methods, ensuring students are well-prepared for theoretical and practical biosecurity challenges, including policy implementation, risk assessment, fieldwork, emergency response, and stakeholder communication.

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Keywords

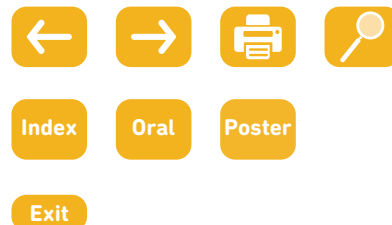
farm animal biosecurity • learning outcomes • competencies • assessment

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Table 1. Structural Framework for Aligning Learning Outcomes and Competencies

Component	Definition in Farm Biosecurity Context
Learning Outcomes	What students should know, understand, and be able to do upon course completion.
Competencies	The combination of knowledge, skills, values and attitudes that students develop to perform biosecurity-related tasks effectively
Assessment Methods	Tools and techniques used to evaluate whether students have achieved the intended learning outcomes and acquired the necessary competencies

Table 2. Learning Outcomes and Their Direct Connection to Competencies and Assessment

Learning Outcomes	Related Competencies	Assessment Methods
1. Understanding the principles and importance of farm biosecurity	Instrumental: Knowledge of epidemiology, pathogen transmission, and risk factors Systemic: Ability to integrate biosecurity measures into sustainable farm management	Written exams (Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs), case studies) Oral presentations on biosecurity principles
2. Identifying and assessing farm biosecurity risks	Instrumental: Risk assessment skills, problem-solving Professional: Application of risk analysis frameworks 21st-Century Competencies: Digital biosecurity risk analysis tools	Practical risk assessment report on a farm AI-based risk assessment simulation
3. Implementing biosecurity protocols in farm settings	Professional: Proper use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), disinfection methods, animal movement control Interpersonal: Communication with farm staff Systemic: Decision-making in emergency situations	Practical skills test on biosecurity implementation Farm biosecurity audit report
4. Applying One Health principles in farm biosecurity	Systemic: Understanding zoonotic risks, antimicrobial resistance 21st-Century Competencies: Use of data-driven disease prevention strategies Interpersonal: Collaboration with public health and veterinary authorities	Group discussions on One Health case studies Reflective essay on the global impact of farm biosecurity
5. Using digital tools for farm biosecurity monitoring	21st-Century Competencies: AI, IoT, blockchain applications in biosecurity Professional: Technology-assisted surveillance and data interpretation	Digital farm biosecurity monitoring project Interactive simulations of disease outbreak scenarios
6. Educating farm workers on biosecurity measures	Interpersonal: Communication, leadership, training skills Professional: Ability to translate technical knowledge into practical instructions Systemic: Ethical responsibility for disease prevention	Recorded training session or workshop for farm workers Peer-reviewed biosecurity education campaign
7. Develop and implement farm biosecurity improvement plans	Professional: Ability to design evidence-based biosecurity programs Systemic: Long-term strategic thinking Instrumental: Policy and regulatory knowledge	Farm biosecurity plan project with policy recommendations Presentation to stakeholders on improving farm biosecurity
8. Respond to biosecurity breaches and disease outbreaks effectively	Professional: Crisis management skills, emergency response Systemic: Adaptability in changing disease scenarios 21st-Century Competencies: Data-driven outbreak management	Role-playing emergency outbreak response Case study analysis of a real-world biosecurity failure

Table 3. Assessment Model for Competency Acquisition

Assessment Type	Purpose	Competency Evaluated
Written Exams	Test theoretical knowledge of biosecurity principles	Instrumental (Cognitive Skills)
Farm Biosecurity Audit Report	Evaluate practical risk assessment and management skills	Professional and Systemic
Practical Lab Test	Assess biosecurity measures application (PPE, disinfection)	Professional
Digital Biosecurity Project	Apply AI and IoT tools for monitoring farm biosecurity	21st-Century Competencies
Training Session Presentation	Assess ability to educate others on biosecurity	Interpersonal
Policy Proposal for Biosecurity Improvement	Evaluate long-term planning and systemic thinking	Systemic and Professional
Outbreak Response Role-Play	Assess crisis management and adaptability	Professional and Systemic