

# Purpose vs Intended Learning Outcomes

- **Purpose of the course** describes the overall aims of the course and gives it a motivation. *“Purpose of the course should answer questions such as, “Why is this course given”, or “How is this course useful for the participant”.* A well formulated purpose will help the potential participant to quickly understand what kind of competence can be obtained by way of the course. Ideally, purpose of the course would be formulated in a way that would help awaken the motivation of the potential participant.

*The purpose of the course should be at a general level, thus covering even knowledge, skills and attitudes that may not be explicitly assessed during course. Typical examples of such outcomes might be generic skills, such as ability to think critically, write academically and act in an ethical way, even when these aspects are not included in the more specific intended learning outcomes.*

**Intended learning outcomes**, on the other hand, describe competences the course participant need to be able demonstrate in an examination. Intended learning outcomes should express what the student is expected to be able to do by the end of the course, and should thus also be examined. *The purpose of the course has a wider scope* and can therefore cover even competences that will not be fully achieved.

**Purpose of the course** should be fairly succinct, in order for a potential course participant to quickly grasp what he or she can get out of the course. More detailed descriptions of intended learning outcomes, other contents of the course and methods can be given in other fields of the course description including the course catalogue text.