

# Ako Explored

Six principles for learning and teaching – A suite of effective resources for improving learner outcomes



## Principle 5

**Ako is enhanced when there is clear alignment between intended learning outcomes, learning and teaching activities, and assessment.**

### What are the benefits?

If ākonga have a clear understanding of the intended outcome it allows them to focus more fully on their learning and use the teaching and learning activities to measure their own progress towards its achievement. When enacted well, constructive alignment leaves no real surprises when it comes to assessment.

### What might this look like in practice?

- From the beginning of the learning process, clearly identify what is expected of ākonga or what the learning involves and provide opportunities to clarify. Identify opportunities for co-constructing learning outcomes with learners, where appropriate.
- Summarise at the end of sessions so that everyone knows where they have got to and what needs to happen next.

### Questions for consideration

Do you make learning intentions and success criteria clear, evident, and linked to assessment tasks? In what ways do you make these visible to your ākonga?

## Where can I find out more?

- View the full document and Ako Explored webpages on the Ako Aotearoa website.  
<https://ako.ac.nz/ako-explored>
- See how one educator uses the analogy of a bridge to explain simply the constructive alignment purpose, process, and elements.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w6pDzc8V7RI>
- Read a brief document about how constructive alignment works – outlined by the original author, John Biggs.  
<https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/knowledge-hub/aligning-teaching-constructing-learning>
- Explore this comprehensive document on learning outcomes and their relationship to learning activities and assessment.  
<https://cora.ucc.ie/server/api/core/bitstreams/88bdd1f3-4e1c-4cf8-baf4-df28d4f094c5/content>

**Please note:** The image on the reverse side is titled 'Inter-relationships between the principles,' taken from page 15 of the Ako Explored report.



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This project was funded by Ako Aotearoa  
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