

University Studies Program (USP)
Student Learning Outcomes
10/05/09

Program Outcomes

After completing the University Studies Program, students will be able to:

1. Communicate effectively, using listening, reading, writing and speaking skills.
2. Use quantitative analytical skills to evaluate, process and use numerical data.
3. Identify and solve problems, using critical and creative thinking, including scientific reasoning.
4. Describe problems encountered and helpful strategies used to locate, evaluate and apply information.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures, including global and historical perspectives.
6. Describe issues and strategies used to resolve them relating to personal, civic and social responsibilities.
7. Demonstrate knowledge of ethical thinking and its application to personal choices and issues in society.
8. Use computer and emerging technologies productively.
9. Demonstrate an appreciation for aesthetics and creative activities.
10. Describe how natural systems function and recognize the impact of humans in the environment.

These are the Student Learning Outcomes for each of the four dimensions of the University Studies Program. As was described in our timetable last spring, these will be further elaborated for each of the course topic areas by the GE Council and the faculty groups that will be working with departments on fine tuning the description of courses and their SLO's in preparation for soliciting and selecting courses for the curriculum.

CRITICAL THINKING:

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

1. Productively use problem-solving techniques
2. Demonstrates adaptable, flexible thinking
3. Apply critical thinking to produce comprehensive, supported, integrated conclusions
4. Apply creative thinking methods to produce ideas
5. Distinguish fact from opinion, rhetoric from knowledge, critical from non-critical information
6. Develop several workable solutions to a problem
7. Demonstrate capacity for continuous learning (learning to learn)
8. Collect, analyze and interpret data relevant to testing an hypothesis
9. Analyze historical events and trends using scholarly techniques
10. Interpret texts and events according to a variety of theoretical approaches

11. Explain how each of the five Core discipline areas create meaning
12. Demonstrate technological and information literacy in a variety of disciplines

Possible Assessment Methods/Measures

- Collegiate Learning Assessment (work with Jane Zeff to coordinate pilot/samples to best serve USP). Standardized test designed to be given to freshmen and seniors to assess growth in student achievement.
- Critical thinking rubric (developed by LLST)
- Information literacy rubric (developed by LLST)
- Successful completion of capstone course

Alignment with University Studies Program Learning Outcomes

1. Use quantitative and analytical skills to evaluate and process numerical data
2. Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning
3. Demonstrate knowledge of natural processes and scientific concepts
4. Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate and apply information
5. Use computer and emerging technologies productively

SELF, SOCIETY, AND VALUES:

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

1. Identify issues related to personal, social and civic responsibilities
2. Demonstrate knowledge of personal and societal values
3. Apply individual choice and action in areas of personal well-being and diversity/justice
4. Explain individual strategy to fulfill personal, social and civic responsibilities
5. Demonstrate knowledge of various approaches to expression and appreciation in the arts
6. Demonstrate knowledge of various approaches (historical, cultural and current) to creating meaning in the arts and media

Possible Assessment Methods/Measures

- Collegiate Learning Assessment (work with Jane Zeff to coordinate pilot/samples to best serve USP). Standardized test designed to be given to freshmen and seniors to assess growth in student achievement.
- Successful completion of junior level course
- Adapt rubric from other institutions for use in this dimension

Alignment with GE Program Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate an appreciation for aesthetics and creative activities
2. Solve problems using critical and creative thinking
3. Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures, including global and historical perspectives
4. Create strategies that can be used to fulfill personal, civic, and social responsibilities
5. Demonstrate knowledge of ethical thinking and its application to issues in society
6. Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate and apply information

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS:

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures and world views
2. Apply knowledge, diverse cultural frames of reference, and alternative perspectives to thinking critically and solving problems
3. Analyze global affairs from a variety of disciplinary perspectives
4. Be able to explain in detail how at least one discipline is used in global problem solving
5. Explain the variety of disciplinary roles in examining a global issue.

Possible Assessment Measures/Methods

- Successful completion of Global Applications course
- Adapt rubric from other institutions for use in this dimension

Alignment with University Studies Program Learning Outcomes

1. Solve problems using critical and creative thinking
2. Communicate effectively, using listening, speaking, reading and writing skills
3. Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate and apply information
4. Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures, including global and historical perspectives
5. Demonstrate knowledge of ethical thinking and its application to issues in society

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION:

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

1. Communicate effectively, using explicit listening, oral, reading and writing skills
2. Organize and present ideas and information orally and in writing according to disciplinary, professional and standard usage.
3. Demonstrate understanding of writing as a series of tasks and as a process that involves composing, editing and revising.
4. Demonstrate appropriate language use, clarity, proficiency in writing and citation mechanics in a variety of disciplines.
5. Demonstrate ability to critically evaluate the written work of others.
6. Demonstrate listening/interpretive skills to communicate and work with others and respond to questions accordingly.
7. Utilize technology effectively for academic and professional communication needs

Possible Assessment Measures/Methods

- Collegiate Learning Assessment (work with Jane Zeff to coordinate pilot/samples to best serve USP). Standardized test designed to be given to freshmen and seniors to assess growth in student achievement.

- Adapt rubric from other institution for use in this dimension
- Successful completion of Senior Seminar/Capstone Written or Oral Presentation
- Student writing portfolios – material gathered in each writing intensive class

Alignment with GE Program Learning Outcomes

1. Communicate effectively, using listening, speaking, reading and writing skills
2. Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning
3. Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate and apply information
4. Use computer and emerging technologies effectively