

Goals and Learning Outcomes

Liberal Education for the Environment & Society Program

(Approved by Academic Council on April 19th, 2016)

The Liberal Education for the Environment & Society program has been developed to provide all graduates of Northland College with (1) foundational skills in written communication and quantitative reasoning; (2) a breadth of disciplinary learning characteristic of a liberally educated individual; (3) an understanding of diversity, inequality, prejudice, and discrimination; and (4) an understanding of natural systems and the complex relationships between human endeavors and the natural world.

1) Foundational skills in written communication and quantitative reasoning

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION: Graduates will be able to . . .

- compose written documents that communicate information, ideas, and arguments with clarity and in a style appropriate for the purposes and contexts of the documents;

QUANTITATIVE REASONING: Graduates will be able to . . .

- communicate mathematical information symbolically, visually, numerically, and verbally;
- use statistical or mathematical models in solving problems;
- think critically about the validity of conclusions that are based on statistical or mathematical models.

2) Breadth of disciplinary learning characteristic of a liberally educated individual

Graduates will be able to . . .

- create and interpret metaphorical, symbolic, and artistic expressions of human experience;
- recognize how individual and cultural ideals, values, and beliefs can influence private and public perceptions and actions;
- identify values that influence their behaviors;
- evaluate the credibility of sources and the validity of information;
- construct and evaluate logical arguments;
- apply scientific methodologies in the investigation of natural and social phenomena;
- facilitate understanding through analyses that separate problems, experiences, or arguments into constituent parts for individual study;
- integrate knowledge, theories, and information from several sources into an understanding of an event, experience, or problem;
- address complex problems with insight, efficiency, and grace.

3) Understanding of cultural diversity and justice

Graduates will be able to . . .

- explain how personal and cultural beliefs, artistic expressions, institutions, behaviors, and experiences of others differ from and connect with their own;
- identify individual, collective, and institutional acts of discrimination and explain how these acts create barriers to social justice;
- act with understanding and integrity on issues of diversity.

4) Understanding of natural systems and the complex relationships between human endeavors and the natural world

Graduates will be able to . . .

- explain functions and interdependencies within and among earth's environmental systems;
- understand the development and implications of attitudes and values expressed by humans toward the natural world;
- utilize multi-disciplinary perspectives to address analyses of and solutions to environmental concerns;
- act with understanding and integrity on issues related to ecological sustainability.