

CORE CURRICULUM LEARNING OUTCOMES

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STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The full impact and value of a University of Wisconsin-Platteville education is impossible to measure. Many of its benefits are not recognized until after the student has graduated. Nevertheless, some of its benefits are measurable. Measurable student learning outcomes are listed below, under the goal to which they are most closely connected. For each of these student learning outcomes, University of Wisconsin-Platteville students shall:

1. Apply their knowledge to recognize and solve a wide variety of problems

a. **Mathematical Reasoning Skills**

- i. Recognize mathematical patterns to solve problems.
- ii. Demonstrate ability to work with numbers, space, and data.

b. **Effective Communication Skills**

- i. Construct articulate explanations using the language of each discipline being studied.
- ii. Organize written and spoken material in a coherent and logical pattern that is also mechanically sound.
- iii. Demonstrate knowledge of the processes of human communication and develop critical listening skills.
- iv. Read, write, listen, and speak at a basic level in a language other than English.

c. **Critical Thinking Skills**

- i. Demonstrate skills in problem-solving
- ii. Distinguish between valid and invalid reasoning.
- iii. Assess the plausibility of proposed solutions.
- iv. Demonstrate knowledge of scientific methods.

2. Appreciate and create works of excellence

a. **Knowledge of the Arts and Sciences**

- i. Demonstrate knowledge of the fundamental ideas at the heart of the arts and sciences, including fine arts, history, humanities, mathematics, the natural sciences, and the social sciences. It also includes the disciplines that cut across these categories, namely, ethnic studies, women's and gender studies, and international education.

b. **Creative Thinking Skills**

- i. Demonstrate appreciation for the creative works of others.
- ii. Demonstrate the ability to create works of personal expression.

3. Develop informed national and international perspectives

a. International Awareness

- i. Demonstrate knowledge of cultures other than one's own.
- ii. Demonstrate knowledge of the ideologies, cultures, places, political and economic systems that shape the world.

b. Cultural Awareness

- i. Demonstrate knowledge of the history, culture, customs, values, lifestyles and contributions of the populations of color in the United States.
- ii. Demonstrate knowledge of the cultural constructs that perpetuate stereotypes and social interaction based on gender, race, ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation.
- iii. Identify the social and political structures that support racism, sexism, and other forms of discrimination.
- iv. Recognize the influence the students' own culture, gender, racial identity, and experiences have on their own attitudes towards people different from themselves.

4. Participate ethically and wisely in a diverse society

a. Individual Responsibility

- i. Recognize that personal choices have consequences on ourselves, others, and the environment.

b. Social Responsibility

- i. Distinguish between ethical and unethical behavior.
- ii. Demonstrate knowledge of the multiple viewpoints regarding ethics, justice, and other questions of human meaning and value
- iii. Recognize the importance of individual engagement on a local, regional, national, or international level.
- iv. Recognize the impacts of technology and scientific innovation on society and the environment.

These student learning outcomes are satisfied by successful completion of core curriculum courses and courses in the student's major.

ENTRY YEAR EXPERIENCE

(Required of all students who enter UW-Platteville with fewer than 30 credits excluding test credits or credit earned in high school)

All sections must contain:

- A core component of "survival skills" for freshmen (e.g. time management skills, information about campus resources, advising, etc.).
- Information about engagement opportunities.
- Discussion of diversity issues.

- A participation requirement. Students are required to attend/participate in a minimum of 3 events or activities during the semester (may count participation in one meeting of a student organization as one event).

COMPETENCIES

At UW-Platteville, the competencies are comprised of the basic skills:

1. English Composition,
2. Foreign Language,
3. Mathematics,
4. Speech and
5. Wellness/Physical Activity.

The design of the basic competency program assumes that high school graduates have met the minimum standards of the university. Opportunities for testing out of certain basic requirements for the baccalaureate degree will exist. Students with exceptionally strong high school backgrounds may earn general education credit by CLEP (College Level Examination Program) or AP (Advanced Placement) testing. Entering students who do not meet minimum standards on the UW System English and Mathematics Placement Tests may be required to take remedial courses in these areas, and such courses will not count toward general education or graduation requirements.

ENGLISH COMPOSITION

Students must be able to write and read effectively.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Students must be able to use a language other than English. Refer to the Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts¹ requirements for specific course and grade requirements. A minimum grade of "C" or better is required. Students may place into a foreign language course at the second semester (or higher) level through placement testing or departmental consent. Students who place into a level higher than first semester AND who receive a final grade of A or B for the course are also eligible for retroactive (free) credits for the foreign language courses that were "skipped over." Students with proficiency in a second language other than French, German, Spanish, or Chinese should consult with the UW-Platteville Humanities Department.

¹ The B.F.A. follows the General Education requirements for the B.A.

MATHEMATICS

Students must have a basic competency in computation, problem solving, and quantitative reasoning.

SPEECH

Students must be able to understand spoken English and communicate using it effectively

WELLNESS/PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Students must know how to achieve and maintain both their physical and mental well being.

In the following requirements, a course may fulfill more than one requirement, but no student may use a single course to fulfill more than two requirements.

ETHNIC STUDIES

The purpose of ethnic studies is to awaken the minds and spirits of students to the issues of race and ethnicity in the United States and the social realities and moral challenges of racism in U.S. culture. It strives to help students fulfill their intellectual, moral and social potential, and encourages them to remove barriers that can prevent others from achieving their own potential.

FINE ARTS/HISTORY/HUMANITIES

- The purpose of the study of fine arts is to help students become familiar with the historical and cultural heritage of the fine arts. They should also gain a basic understanding of the creative processes, forms and concepts used in the arts.
- The purpose of the study of history is to challenge students to understand and assess our past, in order to form a clearer perception of the present and to deal more effectively with public issues.
- The purpose of the study of humanities is to explore the range of human thought and experience - achievements and failures, joys and sorrows, comedy and tragedy, life and death. It should challenge students to understand and evaluate how others, past and present, historical and fictional, have struggled with these issues.

GENDER STUDIES

The purpose of gender studies is to help students come to a better understanding of themselves as responsible individuals operating within a gendered cultural context, paying special attention to perspectives involving women.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

The purpose of international education is to challenge students to understand our place within the world and to provide basic knowledge about cultures, people or nations beyond the borders of the United States.

NATURAL SCIENCES

The purpose of studying the natural sciences is to help students understand nature and how the processes of scientific investigation lead to new discoveries. The credits must be taken in approved courses and courses must include a laboratory component.

SOCIAL SCIENCES

The purpose of studying the social sciences is to develop an understanding of social systems, the dynamics of individual and group behavior and the forces that operate in social relationships. Credits must be taken in approved courses in the following disciplines: Agricultural Industries, Criminal Justice, Economics, Ethnic Studies, Geography, Media, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Speech, and Women's and Gender Studies.

GENERAL POLICIES

- Only approved courses may be used to fulfill the core curriculum requirements. All approved core curriculum courses must meet at least four of the UW-Platteville Student Learning Outcomes.

- Every student must earn a minimum of 42 credits in upper-division courses (courses numbered 3000 or above).
- All students must earn 32 credits in residence at UW-Platteville and also 23 of their last 32 credits in residence.