

Phase I Mission Statement and Student Outcomes

Using the mission statement the group was challenged to develop a list of student outcomes that could be used for assessment and also to aid in developing curriculum. The following is the outcome of that exercise.

Mission Statement:

The General Studies program at UNK will facilitate the development of students' skills that transfer across all disciplines. Students will understand the accomplishments of civilizations and world cultures, engage in logical and creative thought in different disciplines, and experience personal growth that enhances their ability to be lifelong learners, and ethical and responsible citizens.

The following student outcomes have been identified and are linked to the mission statement through specific statements:

...development of students' skills that transfer across all disciplines...

Students should be able to communicate effectively by:

- applying the principles of effective oral communication in group and individual presentations
- applying the principles of effective writing and other forms of communication
- participating in fruitful intellectual dialogue and working cooperatively on issues of personal and public importance

Students should be able to think critically by:

- articulating a problem and developing a logical and reasonable response to it using appropriate sources
- demonstrating the ability to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information in problem solving

...understand the accomplishments of civilization and world cultures...

Students will be able to

- describe, analyze, and evaluate the achievements of civilizations in their historical, scientific, philosophical, and social dimensions
- identify and evaluate the contributions of diverse world cultures in the sciences, arts, languages, literature, and philosophy
- recognize cultural influences on the development and expression of worldviews, historical and contemporary
- understand the cultural and historical influences that account for similarities and differences among human beings, past and present
- examine how their own worldviews affect the ways they view themselves and the world

...engage in logical and creative thought in different disciplines...

Students will be able to:

- understand the logic, content, methods, and theoretical approaches of different disciplines
- integrate knowledge across disciplines
- develop creative thought in ways that foster intellectual curiosity and the ability to ask why and research the question

... experience personal growth. . .

Students will be able to:

- recognize and apply the knowledge, skills and behaviors which promote physical and emotional well being
- integrate their knowledge in ways that will deepen their understanding of issues of personal and social importance

... enhances their ability to be lifelong learners, and ethical and responsible citizens. . .

Students will be able to:

- identify and demonstrate the knowledge, attitudes, and actions essential to making ethical and responsible decisions in personal and public life
- identify and examine important principles and concepts that frame our American heritage and democratic government
- identify and analyze ways to balance individual needs and rights with responsibilities to a larger public purpose (the common good)
- respect the views of others and show concern for future generations