Appendix IV: General Education
Student Learning Outcomes

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.

• English Composition

Students should be able to write and read effectively. A course meeting competency requirements in English composition is designed to enable students to:

- understand written language, including various stylistic devices;
- recognize the importance context has for meaning;
- conceptualize a topic in order to establish a purpose for writing, while keeping in mind the intended reader;
- arrange ideas logically and present them coherently;
- create contents that reflects the analysis and synthesis of ideas;
- shape their writing imaginatively.

• Foreign Language

Students should be able to use a language other than English. A course meeting competency requirements in a foreign language is designed to enable students to:

- obtain basic skills in speaking, writing, listening, and reading in a language other than English;
- obtain cultural knowledge related to that language.

• Mathematics

Students should have a basic competency in computational skills and quantitative perception. A course meeting competency requirements in mathematics is designed to enable students to:

- develop problem solving skills using the methods of mathematics;
- use the recognition of patterns to solve problems;
• work with fundamental notions of number and space;
• distinguish between valid and invalid reasoning; and
• remain alert to the plausibility of solutions.

• Speech

Students should be able to understand spoken English and communicate using it effectively. A course meeting competency requirements in speaking and listening is designed to enable students to:

• understand the processes of human communication;
• access and organize information logically;
• design and deliver speeches effectively; and
• develop critical listening and reasoning skills.

• Wellness and Physical Activity

Students should learn how to achieve and maintain both their physical and mental well being. A course meeting competency requirements in wellness is designed to enable students to:

• assess their own overall fitness level; and
• understand what lifestyle changes are required to improve overall fitness.

A course meeting competency requirements in physical activity is designed to enable students to:

• develop an appreciation for, and basic skills in, an activity which if pursued will promote a lifetime of fitness and enjoyment.

Liberal Arts Areas

The liberal arts areas are Ethnic Studies, Fine Arts, Gender Studies, Historical Perspective, Humanities, International Education, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences.

• 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 encourage them to remove barriers that can prevent others from achieving their own potential. Through their study of ethnic studies, students will:

- explore the history, culture, customs, values, lifestyles, and contributions of populations of color in the United States;
- investigate the social and political structures that support racism;
- recognize the influence that students' own culture and experiences have on their attitudes towards people of color;
- understand multiple viewpoints regarding ethics and justice;
- examine the scholarship that depicts, analyzes, and articulates opposition to racism.

**Fine Arts**

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. Through their study of the fine arts, students will:

- demonstrate knowledge of the history and heritage of the fine arts;
- develop a greater appreciation for the fine arts and their value and relevance in our daily lives;
- demonstrate consideration of a variety of artistic patterns in thought and expression.

**Gender Studies**

The purpose of gender studies is to help students come to a better understanding of themselves as responsible individuals operating within gendered cultural contexts, paying special attention to perspectives involving women. A course that meets liberal arts requirements in gender studies will enable students to engage in personal reflection and explore implications of:

- the cultural constructs that create and perpetuate gender-based stereotypes and unequal power relationships;
- the contributions of diverse populations of women and persons of varied sexual orientations in transforming knowledge;
• the influence that students' gender and experiences have on their attitudes toward others.

• **Historical Perspective**

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. A course meeting liberal arts requirements in historical perspective is designed to enable students to:

- demonstrate knowledge of the past;
- explore the multitude of circumstances and events that have helped to shape historical judgments, actions, and visions;
- interpret the sources of historical change in a variety of contexts.

• **Humanities**

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. Through their study of humanities, students will:

- understand some of the diverse approaches to questions of human meaning and value;
- demonstrate competence in critical thinking, reading, and writing;
- acquire tools for life-long learning in the humanities.

• **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. A course meeting liberal arts requirements in international education is designed to enable students to:

- investigate the patterns of world interactions;
- examine contemporary ideologies, cultures, places, or political and economic systems found throughout the world;
- become open to the challenges and ambiguities of human plurality.
• **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. A course meeting liberal arts requirements in natural sciences is designed to enable students to:

- discover the patterns, principles, and dynamics of natural phenomena and relate them to issues in their lives as citizens;
- comprehend scientific methodology and its limitations;
- engage in the analysis of natural phenomena.

• **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. Through their study of the social sciences, students will:

- demonstrate knowledge of individual and social behavior;
- display knowledge of the problems and issues within social sciences;
- demonstrate knowledge of the methods used to study these problems and issues.