

MOTION

Motion to Approve Revised Learning Outcomes for Core Curriculum Goals 5-10

(As Proposed by Ad Hoc Committees and Approved by CCAC)

Motion:

The Faculty Senate approves the revisions to the learning outcomes and the wording of the goals for Goals 5-10 of the Core Curriculum as presented below.

Rationale:

Earlier this academic year, the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee and the Core Curriculum Advisory Committee agree that ad hoc committees should be formed to study Goals 5-11 of the Core Curriculum with a mandate to review the phrasing of goals and objectives and to reduce the number of objectives associated with each goal. The committees included people who teach courses that meet those goals, people who help oversee the Core Curriculum, and people who are familiar with assessment. The committees worked to craft goals and objectives that better reflect what we want students to learn and better facilitate the process of assessment. Each ad hoc committee (with the exception of the committee for Goal 11, which has not yet completed its work) agreed revised learning outcomes that are fewer in number, are in keeping with the spirit of the original outcomes, are consonant with what students should learn in core curriculum classes, are phrased broadly enough to accommodate the various courses teaching in the area, and are more easily measured and assessed. Subsequent to their drafting by the ad hoc committees, these revised outcomes have been approved by CCAC.

Goal Five: Mathematical Sciences

Original Goal and Outcomes:

Radford University students will be able to use the tools of mathematics and quantitative reasoning to conceptualize and solve problems.

Radford University students will be able to:

- a. identify and interpret relationships among numeric, symbolic, and graphical information
- b. generate mathematical models using numeric, symbolic, and graphical information for use in real-world applications
- c. solve problems using numeric, symbolic, and graphical information

Proposed Goal and Outcomes:

Radford University students will use the tools of mathematics and quantitative reasoning to conceptualize and solve problems.

Radford University students will:

- a. interpret relationships among numeric, symbolic, and graphical information as applied to the real world
- b. solve problems using numeric, symbolic, and graphical information

Goal Six: Natural Science

Original Goal and Outcomes:

Radford University students will understand the methodologies of scientific inquiry; think critically about scientific issues and understand that the results of scientific research can be critically interpreted; participate in informed discussions of scientific issues; and describe the natural/physical world within the context of a specific scientific discipline.

Radford University students will be able to:

- a. employ scientific methods to gather and analyze data and test hypotheses in a laboratory setting
- b. distinguish between findings that are based upon empirical data and those that are not
- c. explain the relationships among the sciences and between science, technology, popular media, and contemporary issues in society
- d. explain how scientific ideas are developed or modified over time based on evidence
- e. use the language of science to explain scientific principles within the context of a specific scientific discipline

Proposed Goal and Outcomes:

Radford University students will understand the methodologies of scientific inquiry, think critically about scientific problems, and apply principles of a scientific discipline to solve problems in the natural/physical world.

Radford University students will:

- a. distinguish between findings that are based upon empirical data and those that are not.
- b. apply scientific principles within the context of a specific scientific discipline to solve real world problems.

Goal Seven: Humanities

Current Goal and Outcomes:

Radford University students will understand the importance of the search for answers to humankind's most fundamental and profound questions and the ways in which these questions have been examined.

Radford University students will be able to:

- a. explain the nature and methods of inquiry in the humanities
- b. describe and explain differing views of the meaning, value, and purpose of life
- c. explain historical, philosophical, religious, or literary sources according to societal or cultural perspectives
- d. interpret and critically evaluate historical, philosophical, religious, or literary expressions of the human experience

Proposed Goal and Outcomes:

Radford University students will understand that human experience has given rise to significant questions and be aware of the nature and methods of inquiry in the humanities.

Radford University students will:

- a. Identify principles, concepts, or developments crucial to inquiry in a humanities discipline.
- b. Recognize how a method of inquiry in the humanities can be applied to a disciplinary question.

Goal Eight: Visual and Performing Arts

Original Goal and Outcomes:

Radford University students will experience and analyze ways in which the visual and performing arts reflect and communicate aspects of the human experience.

Radford University students will be able to:

- a. analyze works of art in terms of the medium's distinctive language and syntax
- b. identify and explain how works of art express human values and experiences within specific historical, cultural, and social contexts
- c. identify and explain how the visual and performing arts have been used as vehicles for influencing culture
- d. evaluate works of art from the perspectives of aesthetic and critical criteria

Proposed Goal and Outcomes:

Radford University students will identify and evaluate ways in which the visual and performing arts reflect and communicate aspects of the human experience.

Radford University students will:

- a. evaluate works of art in terms of the medium's distinctive language and terminology
- b. identify the relationship between works of art and specific historical, cultural, and social contexts

Goal Nine: Social and Behavioral Science

Original Goal and Outcomes:

Radford University students will understand how individual, social, or cultural factors influence human behavior and shape reciprocal relationships between people and society.

Radford University students will be able to:

- a. explain the social or cultural factors that shape individuals' ideas and behaviors
- b. explain how individual and collective behaviors shape societies and cultures
- c. explain social or behavioral science concepts
- d. use social or behavioral science concepts to interpret real-world problems, including the underlying origins of such problems

Proposed Goal and Outcomes:

Radford University students will understand how individual, social, or cultural factors influence human behavior and shape reciprocal relationships between people and society.

Students will:

- a. Recognize social and behavioral science concepts.
- b. Recognize the relationship between individual and socio-cultural factors that affect behaviors.

Goal Ten: US Perspectives

Original Goal and Outcomes:

Radford University students will understand how social and cultural (for example, political, historical, economic, environmental, religious, or geographic) forces shape the American experience.

Radford University students will be able to:

- a. explain basic facets of the American experience with attention to unity and diversity in American society
- b. use material studied to explain contemporary issues in the United States
- c. evaluate common institutions in American society and how they have affected, or continue to affect, different groups

Proposed Goal and Outcomes:

Radford University students will understand how social and cultural forces (for example, political, historical, economic, environmental, religious or geographic) shape the American experience.

Radford University students will:

- a. Identify diverse influences that have shaped the American experience; and
- b. Apply course material to a relevant issue in the United States.