



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN WHITEWATER

ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT

LIBERAL STUDIES

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Liberal Studies program to serve students who want a broad liberal arts background and the flexibility to tailor their studies to their own needs, interests and career goals. Liberal Studies offers a dynamic set of majors and a minor that encompasses the study of a wide range of disciplines, including the arts, humanities, sciences and social sciences, which enable students to develop breadth of vision, a capacity for critical thinking, and a fundamental understanding of human nature, society and values. Our majors and minor seek to foster the development of skills and abilities employers consider most important, such as problem solving, analytical thinking, interpersonal relations and communication skills, among others. The Liberal Studies program aspires to present courses of study that are particularly appropriate for nontraditional, returning, and transfer students who desire to complete a degree. The program endeavors to expend every effort to include applicable transfer courses within the major and minor whether they have a University of Wisconsin- Whitewater equivalent or not.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Student learning outcomes (SLOs) are statements of what a student will know or be able to do when they have completed a program. They represent the knowledge and skills a program has determined are most important for students to gain from that program. The most useful SLOs are specific and measurable so the program can accurately assess the degree to which students have achieved each outcome, and they align with college and institution mission and values. Data on achievement of SLOs is used to make improvements in the program and increase student success.

Students who graduate from UW-Whitewater with a degree in Liberal Studies will meet the following student learning outcomes:

- Think critically and analytically, integrate and synthesize knowledge, and draw conclusions from complex information.
- Make sound, ethical, and value judgments.
- Acquire a base of knowledge common to educated persons.
- Communicate effectively in written, oral, and symbolic form.
- Understand and explain the value of the liberal arts.
- Understand and apply the information gathering and organizing methodologies of the liberal disciplines, including the use of information technology.
- Apply the concepts and methodologies of the liberal arts to understand issues in society and in one's own life.

