

## **Common Goals for Baccalaureate Programs at OHIO UNIVERSITY**

(Based on LEAP Essential Learning Outcomes [www.aacu.org/leap](http://www.aacu.org/leap))

Spring 2014 version (subject to continuous improvement)

Ohio University students are not simply visitors passing by on their way to a distant destination: they are citizens in a community rich in culture, history, and tradition. As the first institution of higher learning in the Northwest Territory, Ohio University led efforts to anchor education to the development of the western frontier in our young democracy. The founders of Ohio University understood the value of higher education for building "the peace, order and prosperity of society" and devoted scarce resources to provide educational opportunities within the fledgling community. Over 200 years later, we remain committed to developing each student's potential to contribute to the public good. By combining the culture and personal attention of a small, residential institution with the opportunities of a large public research university, Ohio University immerses students in a shared community of learning that builds character while preparing them to address the local, national, and global challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. While all goals presented here support core Ohio University values, the use of recommendations accommodates the diversity of student goals across academic programs.

### **Required Goals**

**All Ohio University graduates will complete programs of study that value and promote:**

#### **Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World through:**

- A broad, basic understanding of the natural sciences, social sciences, technology, arts, and humanities.
- In-depth knowledge and advanced skills acquired through completion of a major program of study.

#### **Intellectual, Practical, and Professional Skills**

- **Critical inquiry and analysis** as evidenced by the ability to access and evaluate information, view issues from multiple perspectives, articulate a systematic line of reasoning, and employ creativity and logic to solve complex problems.
- **Written and oral communication competencies** as evidenced by the ability to write and speak effectively for a specific audience, including using standard grammar and syntax; adapting the level of formality, style, and other rhetorical choices to the situation; making creative and conventionally acceptable choices with attention to academic and disciplinary standards; and quoting, paraphrasing, summarizing and citing sources according to accepted documentation styles.
- **Quantitative literacy** as evidenced by the ability to use basic mathematical methods to interpret quantitative data in order to evaluate arguments, solve problems, and reach reasoned

conclusions.

- **Interpersonal skills** as evidenced by the ability to listen effectively, work collaboratively in teams, influence others toward productive outcomes, and support the constructive efforts of others.

#### **Citizenship as embodied by Personal, Social, and Professional Responsibility**

- **Intercultural knowledge and competence** with respect to diversity in the United States and the global world, as evidenced by knowledge of the multiple ways through which diversity is expressed (including gender, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, religion, and sexuality) and how diversity influences every level of culture from identity formation to social and political policy and practice.
- **Ethical reasoning and action** as evidenced by the ability to identify ethical issues inherent in both individual and collective decisions; evaluate relevant and often competing ethical perspectives concerning decisions, actions, or policies; and defend a decision or course of action using an ethical theory or framework.

**A Culminating Academic Experience** within or outside of the major program of study (for example a capstone)

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### **Recommendations**

Ohio University programs of study are encouraged to promote the following curricular and co-curricular activities that will distinguish their graduates and prepare them for success in our dynamic, global world.

### **Recommended Curricular and Co-Curricular Experiences**

- **Experiential and/or applied learning**, including internships, cooperative learning, education abroad, service learning, research, creative activity, community service projects, and peer education projects.
- **The study of languages**, which engenders an appreciation of cultural diversity and contributes to a student's competence as a global citizen.
- **Community engagement** and other activities that develop a knowledge of Rural/Appalachian culture, geography, history and economies.
- **Intensive study of a significant social issue** (i.e., racism, poverty, war, sustainability) from multiple perspectives that entails advanced research and synthesis.
- **Participation in communities of learning**, both disciplinary and cross-disciplinary.

## **Recommended Goals**

- **Personal financial literacy** as demonstrated by knowledge of individual financial management, the importance of savings and investment, and the appropriate use of debt that includes credit and loans.
  - **Personal wellness** as evidenced by knowledge of habits and decisions that support holistic health.
  - **Engagement in civic life** and an awareness of the need to contribute to the well-being of the community on the local, national and global levels.
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