

# Office of Institutional Research and Assessment Learning Outcomes Assessment Hood College Competencies and Definitions

### 1. Written Communications

- Demonstrate ability to communicate effectively in verbal, nonverbal and written forms.
- Ability to develop and express complex ideas clearly, coherently, and logically in a style appropriate for both purpose and audience.
- Ability to use appropriate technology that supports or facilitates communication.
- Competent writing must demonstrate mastery in focus, content, organization, style and conventions.

#### 2. Oral Communications

- Prepared, purposeful presentation to increase knowledge, to foster understanding, and to promote change in the listeners' attitudes, values, beliefs, or behaviors.
- Outcomes Cover these Dimensions:
  - Cohesive Organization of Content
  - Language Choice
  - Delivery Techniques
  - Use of Evidence
  - Central Message Development

#### 3. Information literacy

- Process in which the students need to find, understand, evaluate, and use information in various forms.
- Effectively access and evaluate a wide variety of information/data sources
- Use of library, search engines, research and integration process
- Recognize and articulate an information need
- Develop effective research strategies
- Analyze and critically evaluate information
- Organize and synthesize information
- Information Competency
  - **Determine** the extent of information needed
  - Access the needed information effectively and efficiently
  - Evaluate information and its sources critically
  - Incorporate selected information into one's knowledge base
  - Use information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
  - Understand the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information, and access and use information ethically and legally

#### 4. Quantitative Analysis

- Apply quantitative methods to solve real-world problems
- Perform necessary computations to solve quantitative problems relevant to the field/course.
- Evaluate information presented in tabular, graphic, and/or numerical form
- Continuous & discrete mathematics

#### 5. Critical Reasoning

- Identify and examine assumptions and premises
- Distinguish belief, opinion, and empirical truth
- Think open-mindedly
- Present and assess the quality of supporting data and empirical evidence within a context.
- Draw conclusion based on evidence, prior knowledge, and context
- Create or generate idea, processes, experiences, or artifacts

### 6. Technological Capabilities

- Engage in global and collaborative outreach through electronic communication.
- Engage in face-to-face communication through technology-enhanced presentations.
- Use emerging technologies to collect and manage data and information.
- Use technology to analyze more effectively.
- Demonstrate familiarity with major legal, ethical, privacy, and security issues in information technology.



# 7. Values

- Understand the concepts of values, attitudes, and beliefs, and the ways in which these concepts relate
- Identify cultural, societal, and personal values, and the potential of conflict between different value systems
- Understand the influence of values in determining policy and practice in government, business, and the society as a whole
- Be able to define, and defend logically, personal values

## 8. Ethics

- Understand the meaning and function of ethics, and the necessity for, and value of, ethical behavior in personal and societal relationships
- Identify essential questions and variables related to making ethical decisions
- Recognize ethical questions in personal, professional, and societal contexts
- Be able to analyze ethical problems and decide upon appropriate courses of action
- Understand the application of ethics in the particular discipline
- Students will understand and apply the principle of the ethical use of information and intellectual property
- Personal Privacy issue
- Academic honesty/plagiarism

### 9. Diversity

- Understand the concept of culture, the evolution of different cultures, and demonstrate a respect for cultural differences
- Learn to view objectively persons of different gender, races, nationalities, ethnic groups, ages, and sexual preferences
- Develop an openness to learning the variation of values and cultural traditions in different groups
- Recognize laws, regulations, and social and commercial practices that discriminate against members of minority groups
- Develop ways of thinking and behaving that recognize and respect persons of diverse backgrounds
- Cultural competency (can be included as well)
  - Ability to function effectively in diverse cultures
  - Understanding of cultural biases and knowledge of how to proactively challenge them.
  - Knowledge about cultural differences including historical perspective
  - Sensitivity, understanding, and respectful in interacting with persons of a different culture

### Sources:

Association of American Colleges & Universities (AAC&U) http://www.aacu.org/

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National Institute for Learning Outcomes and Assessment (NILOA). http://www.learningoutcomesassessment.org/AboutUs.html

The Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission on Higher Education. State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) <a href="http://www.schev.edu/">http://www.schev.edu/</a>

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