

Bismarck State College is dedicated to providing innovative educational programs that develop individual abilities, strengthen human relationships, enhance community life, and heighten global consciousness. Institutional Essential Learning Outcomes at Bismarck State College promote the development of an informed and educated person who recognizes and respects the diversity of communities; understands the value of active, critical thinking; and is competent and proficient at fundamental skills which encourage a positive attitude toward lifelong learning and equip students to participate in a complex, interdependent world.

Awareness

Students demonstrate the ability to successfully function in a diverse society which requires knowledge and awareness of the environment, self, and others.

- **Diversity:** examine our capacity to understand societal knowledge, to identify our own cultural patterns, and to compare and contrast those with others
- **Lifelong Learning:** develop the disposition and skills necessary to engage in learning throughout life in personal, academic, and professional contexts

Academic Specific

- **Civic Engagement:** demonstrate knowledge, skills, values, and motivation to make a difference in our own lives and the civic life of our communities

Non-Academic Specific

- **Social Responsibility:** demonstrate integrity and behave ethically with sensitivity toward social, cultural, economic and environmental issues, while striving to make a positive impact on the community and other societal entities
- **Intrapersonal Development:** cultivate a strong sense of identity; develop and understand personal beliefs, values, and interests; demonstrate growth and self-management to promote lifelong learning; and have the capacity to learn from life experiences

Communication

Students demonstrate the ability to communicate in a manner that is essential in interpersonal relationships, working environments, and civic duties.

- **Written Communication:** develop and express ideas in writing using a variety of genres, styles, and technologies
- **Oral Communication:** deliver information designed to increase knowledge, to foster understanding, or to promote change in the listener
- **Information Literacy:** identify when a need for information exists and then locate, evaluate, and effectively and responsibly use and share that information

Academic Specific

- **Teamwork:** contribute to team tasks and discussions and interact effectively

Non-Academic Specific

- **Interpersonal Development:** form mature and respectful personal and professional relationships using effective communication and listening skills

Thought

Students demonstrate the ability to think, reason, and learn in a manner that is imaginative, methodic, and can serve as the cornerstone of learning success for a student.

- **Critical and/or Creative Thinking:** identify a problem, recognizing and evaluating relevant ideas, concepts, theories, or approaches, and create possible strategies and processes to solving emerging problems in a transformational, innovative, and/or original way
- **Integrative Learning:** transfer skills from learning experiences to complex and everyday life situations

Academic Specific

- **Ethical Reasoning:** recognize, describe, and/or analyze positions on ethical issues in a variety of contexts
- **Problem Solving:** design, evaluate, and implement a strategy to answer an open-ended question or achieve a desired goal
- **Inquiry and Analysis:** examine issues through the collection and analysis of evidence that results in informed conclusions and break complex topics into parts to gain a better understanding
- **Quantitative Literacy:** apply reason and solve problems from a wide array of authentic contexts and everyday life situations and clearly communicate arguments supported by quantitative evidence in a variety of formats (using words, tables, graphs, mathematical equations, etc., as appropriate)

Each student may demonstrate varied levels of proficiency of Bismarck State College's Institutional Essential Learning Outcomes depending upon the specific degree, program, or credential that s/he pursues and the co-curricular activities and programs in which s/he participates.