

WVC Student Learning Outcome Definitions

Adopted by the Faculty Assessment Committee, October 2019

Communication (3 subcategories):

APPROVED this definition for Communication:

"The goal-driven expression of ideas, thoughts, and feelings that are transferred between interactants in the process," (Karen Alman)

Subcategory 1: Oral Expression

APPROVED the current definition for Oral Expression:

"[...] a prepared, purposeful presentation designed to increase knowledge, to foster understanding, or to promote change in the listeners' attitudes, values, beliefs, or behaviors," (Adapted from the AAC&U Oral Communication VALUE Rubric).

Subcategory 2: Written Expression

MODIFIED the current definition for Written Expression:

"[...] the [clear] development and expression, of ideas in writing. [...] Written [expression] abilities develop through iterative experiences across the curriculum," (Adapted from the AAC&U Written Communication VALUE Rubric).

Sai will look at applicability to math and engineering by 8/31.

Subcategory 3: Artistic Expression

APPROVED the current definition of Artistic Expression:

"The application of techniques of critical analysis to study, interpret, and/or create works of art, dance, music, and theater in the context of culture, society, and individual identity," (WVC TLSC developed and approved by art faculty—Scott Bailey)

Updated and approved by the Faculty Assessment Committee on Oct. 4, 2019

Inquiry (3 subcategories)

APPROVED this broad definition of Inquiry:

“[...] a systematic process of defining and exploring issues, objects or works through the collection and analysis of evidence that results in informed conclusions or judgments,” (Adapted from the AAC&U Inquiry and Analysis VALUE Rubric).

Subcategory 1: Documentation

APPROVED this definition of Documentation:

“Documentation creates or retains a record of important events or information. One important type of documentation involves giving credit to sources of ideas, images, information and other intellectual property in an appropriate format or style for the type of work. Proper documentation avoids plagiarism and increases originality and credibility of the work by demonstrating adherence to professional standards and providing evidence in support of the work.” (Barbara Oldham, J’Lene George, Excelsior College Online Writing Lab, Medium)

Subcategory 2: Information Literacy

APPROVED this definition of Information Literacy:

“Information literacy is the set of integrated abilities encompassing the reflective discovery of information, the understanding of how information is produced and valued, and the use of information in creating new knowledge and participating ethically in communities of learning. It also includes knowledge of and competence with information seeking tools and processes.” (Association of College Research Libraries, Andrew Tudor)

Subcategory 3: Research

APPROVED this definition for Research:

“The ability to procure, or discover, and systematically evaluate, appropriate information to answer a question or solve a problem. Good research not only recognizes potential bias, but seeks evidence in support of and/or contrary to hypotheses or stances. Research increases knowledge both personally and broadly as it can expand the available knowledge all people can find and use. This can include but is not limited to:

- *Find appropriate sources for a paper on a particular topic*
- *Conduct a review of available literature on a particular topic*
- *Determine, collect and evaluate the appropriate data in a scientific study” (J’Lene George)*

Problem Solving (4 subcategories):

APPROVED this broad definition of Problem Solving:

“[...] the process of designing, evaluating and implementing a strategy to answer an open-ended question or achieve a desired goal,” (Adapted from the AAC&U Problem Solving VALUE Rubric).

Subcategory 1: Critical Thinking

MODIFIED the current definition of Critical Thinking:

“[...] a [mode of thinking] characterized by the comprehensive exploration of issues, ideas, artifacts, and events before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion,” (Adapted from the AAC&U Critical Thinking VALUE Rubric).

Subcategory 2: Creative Thinking

APPROVED the current definition of Creative Thinking:

“[...] both the capacity to combine or synthesize existing ideas, images, or expertise in original ways and the experience of thinking, reacting, and working in an imaginative way characterized by a high degree of innovation, divergent thinking, [and/or] risk-taking,” (Adapted from the AAC&U Creative Thinking VALUE Rubric).

Subcategory 3: Quantitative Reasoning

MODIFIED the current definition of Quantitative Reasoning:

“[...] a [mode of thinking], competency, and comfort in working with numerical data. [...] the ability to reason and solve quantitative problems from a wide array of authentic contexts and everyday life situations. They understand and can create [and communicate] sophisticated arguments supported by quantitative evidence [...],” (Adapted from the AAC&U Quantitative Literacy VALUE Rubric).

Subcategory 4: Qualitative Reasoning

MODIFIED the current definition of Qualitative Reasoning:

“A mode of thinking, competency, and comfort in forming ideas, opinions, and decisions based on exploration, observation, and analysis of the qualities of surrounding environments, objects, or persons. Measurements, analyses, or presentations of results are generally more reliant on

observations than on numerical data," (WVC TLSC-generated definition, based in part on the AAC&U Quantitative Literacy VALUE Rubric)

Social Interaction (4 subcategories):

APPROVED this definition for Social Interaction:

"The process of learning to effectively socially interact and collaborate with others toward an understanding of how our reality is socially constructed and to therefore develop a fairly consistent pattern of thinking, feeling, and acting: a process as important to society as to the individual," (Rich Brinkman)

Subcategory 1: Collaboration

MODIFIED this definition of Collaboration:

"[...] behaviors under the control of individual [group] members (effort they put into [group] tasks, their manner of interacting with others [in group] and the quantity and quality of contributions they make to [group] discussions)," (Adapted from the AAC&U Teamwork VALUE Rubric).

Subcategory 2: Cultural Diversity

MODIFIED this definition of Cultural Diversity:

"Development of one's own personal identities, biases and prejudices in a manner that is observable by the instructor and that promotes respect and inclusion. Expression of student's cultural awareness, sensitivity, and cultural competency," (Erin Tofte-Nordvik).

For further consideration: Analysis of public policies that affect various groups of people in different ways; understanding how social trends impact institutions and lives of diverse individuals; utilize tools for analyzing bias, prejudice, and discrimination in society.

Subcategory 3: Ethical Conduct

MODIFIED this definition of Ethical Conduct

"[...] reasoning about right and wrong human conduct. It requires students to be able to assess their own values and the social context of problems, recognize ethical issues in a variety of settings, think about how different perspectives might be applied to [everyday] dilemmas and

[behave or respond responsibly], [...]," (Adapted from the AAC&U Ethical Reasoning VALUE Rubric).

Subcategory 4: Professional Conduct

APPROVED this definition of Professional Conduct:

"Professional conduct is the accepted way a person behaves to uphold the accountability, responsibility, and standards of a profession. The way a person acts must be fair and conscientious so that trust can be instilled among all parties involved," (Micky Jennings).