

LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Additional Connections for LBCs

Perspectives of Understanding

In its Mission Statement, the University commits itself to developing in its students an appreciation of multiple perspectives of understanding. Perspectives are the systematic ways various academic disciplines view and interpret the world around us. Each perspective enhances the students' understanding of the complexity of the environment in which we live and of the richness of human experience. **For more information, the Perspectives can be found in the University catalogue online.**

- **Natural Science Perspective** - The science perspective cultivates familiarity with the vast realm of accumulated knowledge about the structure and functioning of the physical and biological world.
- **Behavioral Science Perspective** - The behavioral science perspective uses scientific methods to study the forces and processes that influence the behavior of individuals, groups, governments, and economies.
- **Historical Perspective** - Through historical inquiry, this perspective enriches insight into the political, social, economic, and cultural forces that have shaped the modern world, providing the context for future events.
- **Cultural Studies Perspective** - The cultural studies perspective gives students a basic understanding of how people from at least one other culture view the world.
- **Ethical Perspective** - The ethical perspective helps students form rationally defensible ethical views to guide their behavior in all aspects of their lives by heightening their sensitivity to ethical issues and providing them with a variety of tools for ethical problem solving.
- **Aesthetic Perspective** - The aesthetic perspective regards objects in terms of the qualities that make them attractive in and of themselves. Whatever the objects, they are valued not for any utilitarian purpose but for their sensual and emotive effect, for their form, line, color, sound, texture, feeling, meaning.
- **Integrated Liberal and Professional Perspective (ILP)** - The integrated liberal and professional perspective makes clear the connections between the goals of liberal education and those of professional education. It compares and contrasts the values, perspectives, and assumptions of natural science, behavioral science, history, cultural studies, ethics or aesthetics to a perspective from a professional discipline.
- **Disciplinary Perspective** - The disciplinary perspective is designed to allow students to participate in an experience that adds to their broader knowledge and understanding of concepts or principles relevant to their discipline.

Foundations

Fundamental to every student's success in college and beyond is competency in four areas that provide the foundation for lifelong learning and for personal and professional effectiveness. **For more information, the Foundations can be found in the University catalogue online.**

- **Mathematical Analysis** - Daily life and many professional and intellectual pursuits and success in college require an understanding and appreciation of mathematical reasoning and of mathematical problem solving.
- **Communication** - Effective writing and speaking is important in virtually all human activities from informal exchanges with friends and family through the responsibilities of the work place to the highest professional and intellectual pursuits.
- **Critical Thinking** - The ability to think logically about personal, social, and professional problems is important in reaching satisfactory and defensible decisions. The educated person should be able to recognize sound arguments.
- **Computer Competence and Information Literacy** - Understanding how computers function and how to use computer technology is increasingly necessary in many professional pursuits as well as in personal life. Students should have the ability to identify access, evaluate, and select information to fit defined needs and the ability to use that information in an ethical manner.

University's Strategic Plan Directions

The University's recently-adopted Strategic Plan *Individual Focus, Global Perspectives. A Personal Approach to a University Education* (2009-2018) sets forth the important "road map" we will follow as we continue to grow and thrive over the next years moving enthusiastically and energetically toward the celebration of our centennial (2019). **The Strategic Plan is available for viewing online on the University's About Us page.**

- **Wholistic Student Development** - Represents experiences that contribute to the personal and emotional development of the student. Examples of experiences that can be connected to this direction include mentoring possibilities, performing arts opportunities, co-curricular programs and services, global citizenship and leadership, career development.
- **Internationalization** - The 21st century is rapidly progressing on a global stage economically, politically, and socially. Examples of experiences that connect to this direction include University sponsored study abroad programs or independent international travel.
- **Diversity and Pluralism** - Education should both enable and empower all community members to live and work in an environment sensitive to diversity in ethnicity, gender, geographic origin, life circumstance, physical or intellectual ability, political inclination, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status. Experiences directly related to any of these issues can be connected to this direction.
- **Sustainability** - Recognize the importance of sustainability in the areas of technological hardware, software, and networking capabilities; natural resources; pollution; initiatives to build, renovate and maintain sustainable infrastructures. Experiences directly related to any of these issues can be connected to this direction.