

# Liberal Education Goals and Objectives

## Executive Summary

The Liberal Education Committee presents the following set of fifteen proposed learning objectives grouped among four overall program learning goals for a new Liberal Education program at FHSU. We respectfully submit the document and supporting literature to the Faculty Senate through the Academic Affairs committee with the request for a resolution of support for the new learning goals.

The Liberal Education Committee produced the goals and objectives after a four-month process of evaluating different Liberal Education programs at peer institutions, consolidating best practices from other Degree Qualifications Profile-utilizing institutions, and soliciting input from faculty, staff, and students. When presented with draft language of each objective listed below, a majority of faculty responding supported every proposed objective. The fifteen objectives among four goals presented here represent the proficiencies in skill, behavior, and orientation that we should expect all students who complete the Liberal Education program at Fort Hays State University to display.

The proposed goals are aligned with four of the five categories in the Degree Qualifications Profile, the Lumina Foundation's guidelines for Liberal Education that the committee has used as the starting point for our revised program. The objectives are arranged in a progressively higher-level order (scaffolded) according to Bloom's Taxonomy of Educational Objectives. Basic skills of written and oral communication are the foundation, followed by three literacies (quantitative, information, and technology) completed by inquiry and critical thinking. Broad-based content knowledge in the arts, humanities, natural and social sciences along with cross-disciplinary thinking and synthesis of knowledge build open those intellectual and practical skills. Application of proficiencies occurs in the third goal set, Personal and Social Responsibility, where civic and global knowledge combine with resource management and intercultural competency. Finally, Application and Collaboration are integrated through teamwork and interpersonal skills.

## FHSU Program Goals and Objectives



### Program Goal 1: Intellectual and Practical Skills

*Practiced extensively*, across the curriculum, in the context of progressively more challenging problems, projects, and standards for performance

#### ***Objective 1.1: Written and oral communication***

Students will be able to effectively develop, express, and exchange ideas in the English language, both in writing and speaking, with clarity and coherence.

#### ***Objective 1.2: Quantitative literacy***

Students will be able to recognize quantitative relationships, use multiple approaches to analyze these relationships, and apply proper knowledge to solve problems including real-world applications.

#### ***Objective 1.3: Information literacy***

Students will responsibly discover, evaluate, and use information when creating new knowledge, synthesizing ideas, and participating in communities of learning.

#### ***Objective 1.4: Technology literacy***

Students will understand the relationship between technology and society, and responsibly use appropriate technology for communication, scholarship, and problem-solving.

#### ***Objective 1.5: Inquiry and analysis***

Students will engage in inquiry using a systematic process of exploring issues, objects, and/or works through the collection and analysis of evidence that results in informed conclusions or judgements.

#### ***Objective 1.6: Critical thinking and creative problem solving***

Students will explore issues, ideas, artifacts, and events before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion. Students will combine or synthesize existing ideas, images, or expertise in original ways. Students will demonstrate an ability to design, evaluate and implement a strategy to achieve desired goals and solve problems. Students will think, critique, react, and work in ways characterized by intellectual courage, imagination, innovation, and divergent thinking.

## **Program Goal 2: Broad and Integrative Knowledge**

*Focused* by engagement with big questions, both contemporary and enduring

### ***Objective 2.1: Knowledge of arts, humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences***

Students will possess a broad understanding of the world, including knowledge in the range of disciplines that provide the foundation of knowledge and inquiry necessary for understanding the cultural, social, natural, and designed world.

### ***Objective 2.2: Integrative and cross-disciplinary thinking***

Students will demonstrate an ability to make connections among ideas and experiences across the curriculum, synthesizing and transferring learning from multiple disciplines.

### ***Objective 2.3: Synthesis with the major***

Students will demonstrate the ability to consolidate and integrate broad fields of study using proficiencies common to all fields of study and in connection with specialized knowledge and skills appropriate to their major.

## **Program Goal 3: Personal and Social Responsibility**

*Anchored* through active involvement with diverse communities and real-world challenges

### ***Objective 3.1: Resource management***

Students will possess a broad understanding of sustainable resource management on an individual, societal, financial, and environmental basis, and the importance of balancing these factors.

### ***Objective 3.2: Civic and global learning***

Students will demonstrate an understanding of their own and others' civic identity. Students will recognize the complexity of interdependent natural, social, economic, and political global systems and their implications for people's lives. Students will demonstrate the ability to knowledgably and responsibly participate in both civic and civil society and to apply knowledge and skills to implement appropriate and workable solutions to complex and interdisciplinary global problems.

### ***Objective 3.3: Intercultural competence and diversity***

Students will demonstrate an understanding of their own and others' cultures and will be able to engage constructively with people across a range of races, ethnicities, genders, identities, abilities, histories, religions, traditions, and languages.

### ***Objective 3.4: Ethical reasoning***

Students will assess their own ethical values and the social context of problems, recognize ethical issues in a variety of settings, think about how different perspectives might be applied to ethical dilemmas, and consider the ramifications of alternative actions.

**Program Goal 4: Applied and Collaborative Learning**

*Demonstrated through* the application of knowledge, skills, and responsibilities to new settings and complex problems

***Objective 4.1: Teamwork***

Students will demonstrate an ability to cooperatively work, compromise, and perform in groups.

***Objective 4.2: Career and interpersonal skills***

Students will develop personal and professional skills including the ability to interact and present themselves with interpersonal efficacy and confidence appropriate to the professional context.