NIU: Baccalaureate Student Learning Outcomes

- The Baccalaureate goals include the "Three Cs": Critical thinking, Creativity, and Communication

1. Integrate Knowledge of global interconnections and interdependencies. This outcome is designed to measure how NIU instills its student with global self-perspective and knowledge through cultural self-awareness and to compare and contrast them with others. How do students identify themselves as part of a larger international community as well as how do they develop an understanding of the interdependencies of this larger, complex world.

2. Exhibit Intercultural competencies with people of diverse backgrounds and perspectives. Students develop appreciation for and an understanding of the rich complexity of the human experience and demonstrate knowledge of, respect for, and ability to communicate with people of diverse backgrounds and perspectives.

3. Analyze issues that interconnect human life and the natural world. Environmental literacy means understanding the impact of one's actions as an individual and as part of a community on local, regional, and global environments. A student with environmental perspective has working knowledge in the form of experience with varying physical environments as well as political, economic, ecological, biological and philosophical education on global environments.

4. Demonstrate critical, creative, and independent thought. Develop a habit of mind characterized by the comprehensive exploration of issues, ideas, artifacts, and events before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion. Creative thinking is both the capacity to combine or synthesize existing ideas, images, or expertise in original ways. The experience of thinking, reacting and working in an imaginative way characterized by a high degree of innovation, divergent thinking, and risk taking.

5. Communicate clearly and effectively. The development and expression of ideas in written and oral forms involving diverse genres and venues. Attention to organization, context, language, delivery, use of sources and supporting materials, and central message.

6. Collaborate with others to achieve specific goals. The manner of interacting with team members and the quantity/quality of discussion, planning, and steps completed toward a team’s end goal.

7. Use and combine appropriate quantitative and qualitative reasoning skills to address questions and solve problems. Outcome focuses on the ability to explain information presented in mathematical forms; the ability to perform calculations and present their results clearly; the ability to appropriately express a problem mathematically; the ability to evaluate the reasonableness of a hypothesis, result or assertion based upon either quantitative or qualitative analysis.

8. Synthesize knowledge and skills relevant to one’s major or particular field of study and apply them creatively to develop innovative outcomes. Outcome measures learning across courses and experiences both within and beyond the classroom. Focus on making connections to field of study, adapting and applying skills, creating new knowledge, and drawing informed conclusions.