

University Undergraduate Learning Goals

Writing and Critical Reading

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Learning Goal: Writing and Critical Reading

EIU graduates write critically and evaluate varied sources by:

1. Creating documents appropriate for specific audiences, purposes, genres, disciplines, and professions.
2. Crafting cogent and defensible applications, analyses, evaluations, and arguments about problems, ideas, and issues.
3. Producing documents that are well-organized, focused, and cohesive.
4. Using appropriate vocabulary, mechanics, grammar, dictation, and sentence structure.
5. Understanding, questioning, analyzing, and synthesizing complex textual, numeric, and graphical sources.
6. Evaluating evidence, issues, ideas, and problems from multiple perspectives.
7. Collecting and employing source materials ethically and understanding their strengths and limitations.

Questions to Consider

As you work together in your program areas, you can start by doing some “curriculum mapping” by asking yourselves some of the questions below:

- Where are we currently teaching writing and critical reading?
- Do we have learning objectives for writing and critical reading?
- How is writing and critical reading being assessed in our classes? (Take a look at your assessment plan for your program area)
- What are we teaching (content) and how is it being delivered/received (process)?
- Overall, where is writing and critical reading being addressed over the course of our program area’s curriculum? (Does the course sequencing address the learning goals over time, so that the learning goals are delivered cohesively and comprehensively)

Recommendations

1. Define essential learning outcomes related to the learning goals you have for your majors.
2. Look at where you are currently teaching these skills in your curriculum (curriculum map); discuss level/types of writing and critical reading expected of students.
3. Make decisions about how much and where you could/should be targeting the learning goal (s).
4. Update the course(s) if needed.
5. Determine how you will assess if students have met expectations.
6. Think about how you will monitor assessment results.

Resources

There are some great resources for you on the Undergraduate Learning Goals website:

<http://www.eiu.edu/learninggoals>. You will find Writing and Critical Reading listed on the left-hand side and a site devoted specifically to Writing and Critical Reading that offers videos, handouts and many other great resources.