

## **First Year Experience Program Program Learning Outcomes**

### **General Education Program Pacific Lutheran University**

#### **Framing Language and Program Goals**

As the foundation of Pacific Lutheran University's General Education Program, the First Year Experience Program (FYEP) focuses on the broad themes of thinking, literacy, and community. The FYEP prepares students for successful participation in PLU's distinctive academic and co-curricular culture by promoting critical thought, purposeful inquiry and effective expression in learning communities that are both supportive and challenging. The program promotes intellectual and social engagement to facilitate students' transition into the university in ways that strengthen our community and enhance student retention and success.

The program contributes two courses, Writing 101 and 190 Inquiry, as well as a requirement that students enroll for their first January term. Writing 101 and 190 Inquiry meet in small sections reserved for first year students and teach students to utilize the methods and understand the perspective of diverse disciplines. The J-term requirement ensures students have more early exposure to what PLU has to offer in terms of experiential learning, intensive classes, co-curricular programs, and global education, and gives them an opportunity to participate in EXPLORE!, a retreat that encourages reflection on the theme of vocation.

#### **General Education Description**

##### **Embracing the Life of the Mind: First Year Experience Program**

This program prepares students for successful participation in PLU's distinctive academic and co-curricular culture by promoting critical thought, impassioned inquiry, and effective expression in learning communities that are both supportive and challenging.

#### **General Education Program Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of the FYEP Program, students will:

##### **General Outcome**

1. know and understand how thinking, literacy, and community support the university mission and exploration about vocation;

##### **Intellectual Outcomes**

2. be prepared to develop and apply effective processes for inquiry and communication in academic contexts, including selecting a topic, finding resources, reading, conversing, brainstorming, drafting, revising, and editing;
3. be able to critically assess their own beliefs and entertain points of view from diverse perspectives;
4. be able to reflect upon their own work to continue improving the quality of their writing processes and written products;
5. be prepared to identify and pursue intellectual interests that motivate them;
6. understand academic integrity and be able to make proper use of citation methods;

##### **Social Outcomes**

7. report feeling welcome and supported as a member of the PLU community of scholars;
8. be able to interact productively and respectfully with peers, faculty, and staff; and,
9. know about available campus services, programs, organizations, and campus opportunities.

Alignment to the ILOs:

The First Year Experience introduces students to the integrated nature of the Integrative Learning Objectives. The ILOs are intended to provide a conceptual reference for every department and program to build on and reinforce in their own particular curricula the goals of the General Education Program. The ILOs are meant to serve as a useful framework that unifies education throughout the University, while disciplinary study provides students with the knowledge and understanding of a field that will allow them to function in their chosen area.

### **Knowledge Base**

These four statements describe the knowledge base expected of all PLU graduates:

- A broad knowledge of the basic liberal arts and sciences.
- An understanding of the interconnections among these basic liberal arts and science that provide the broad framework for living with the complexities of life.
- An in-depth knowledge of a specified area of knowledge designated as a major within the university.
- An understanding of the interconnections among the basic liberal arts and sciences and the in-depth knowledge of her/his specified major area.

In addition to the knowledge base described above, and an awareness of how different disciplinary methodologies are used, every student at Pacific Lutheran University is expected to develop the following abilities:

### **Critical Reflection**

- Select sources of information using appropriate research methods, including those employing technology, and make use of that information carefully and critically.
- Consider issues from multiple perspectives.
- Evaluate assumptions and consequences of different perspectives in assessing possible solutions to problems.
- Understand and explain divergent viewpoints on complex issues, critically assess the support available for each, and defend one's own judgments.

### **Expression**

- Communicate clearly and effectively in both oral and written forms.
- Adapt messages to various audiences using appropriate media, convention, or styles.
- Create symbols of meaning in a variety of expressive media, both verbal and nonverbal.

### **Interaction with Others**

- Work creatively to identify and clarify the issues of concern.
- Acknowledge and respond to conflicting ideas and principles, and identify common interests where possible.
- Develop and promote effective strategies and interpersonal relationships for implementing cooperative actions.

### **Valuing**

- Articulate and critically assess one's own values, with an awareness of the communities and traditions that have helped to shape them.
- Recognize how others have arrived at values different from one's own, and consider their views charitably and with an appreciation for the context in which they emerged. Develop a habit of caring for oneself, for others, and for the environment.
- Approach moral, spiritual, and intellectual development as a life-long process of making informed choices in one's commitments.
- Approach one's commitments with a high level of personal responsibility and professional accountability.

**Multiple Frameworks**

- Recognize and understand how cultures profoundly shape different assumptions and behaviors.
- Identify issues and problems facing people in every culture (including one's own), seeking constructive strategies for addressing them.
- Cultivate respect for diverse cultures, practices, and traditions.