

**Encountering Perspectives on Diversity
Learning Goals**

**General Education Program
Pacific Lutheran University**

**Framing Language and Program Goals
General Education Description**

Encountering Perspectives on Diversity

Study of diversity promotes awareness that different cultural perspectives exist within our own society and around the world. This element of the program offers students critical tools for assessing values within a cultural context. Viewing our own values in the larger comparative context provides an opportunity for introspection that allows students to question values and arrive at informed commitments.

General Education Program Learning Outcomes

Outcomes: Students will gain awareness that different cultural perspectives exist within our own society and around the world. Students will gain access to critical tools for assessing values within a cultural context. Students will be able to view their own values in the larger comparative context in order to gain opportunity for introspection in order to question values and arrive at informed commitments.

Learning Goals

The student will:

- Acquire knowledge about different cultural and social perspectives and traditions.
- Study coherence as well as variations within a culture, group, or knowledge tradition.
- Gain respect and appreciation for a range of values, norms, behaviors, and attitudes.
- Develop an understanding of the dynamics of values formation and change.
- Expand their appreciation of accomplishments and contributions of different groups through the study of a range of cultural expressions.
- Identify their own cultural heritages and knowledge traditions and compare them with others.
- Assess the sources of their assumptions about alternative groups and examine the impact of such assumptions on the valuing of others.
- Increase their ability to cross cultural and social boundaries and interact effectively with multiple groups.
- Increase their facility with “perspective-taking,” seeing events and situations from diverse points of view.
- Broaden, challenge, and complicate their worldviews.

Alternative Perspectives

Learning Goals

The student will:

- Develop an awareness and understanding of diversity in the United States, directly addressing such issues as ethnicity, gender, disability, racism, or poverty.

Cross Cultural Perspectives

Learning Goals

The student will:

- Develop an enhanced cross cultural understanding through the examination of other cultures.

Alignment with ILOs

Critical Reflection

- 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.

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.