

### **Concord University Goals Preamble**

Concord University strives to ensure that students come away from their experience with knowledge and skills that will enable them to fulfill their personal and professional aspirations and awareness in respect to their chosen discipline. The learning goals and outcomes are derived from national research and best practices surrounding liberal arts education and Concord University's mission. The goals are a shared vision of what is expected of all Concord graduates. The educational programs of Concord University are designed to foster knowledge/mastery of content, critical thinking, communication, and personal, civic, cultural, and global competence.

General education, the core of all undergraduate curricula, is an essential element in an educational process designed around student learning expectations. Continuous improvement of courses, curricula, and programs is essential for institutions to ensure the improvement and sustainability of student learning and effective instruction. Assessment of general education is not only necessary to satisfy accrediting bodies and stakeholders, but to provide evidence to answer our own question – Did students learn what we wanted them to learn? (Assessing General Education Programs, Allen, 2006)

### **University Goals and Learning Outcomes**

#### *1. Knowledge/Mastery of Content*

Students will demonstrate a depth of knowledge and apply the methods of inquiry in a discipline of their choosing, and they will demonstrate a breadth of knowledge across varied disciplines.

#### *2. Critical Thinking*

Student will demonstrate the ability to access, analyze, and interpret information, respond and adapt to changing situations, make complex decisions, solve problems, and evaluate actions.

#### *3. Communication*

Students will demonstrate the ability to communicate clearly and effectively.

#### *4. Personal, Civic, Cultural, and Global Competence*

Students will demonstrate awareness and understanding of the skills necessary to live and work in a diverse world.

### **A Statement on the Philosophy of Assessment and Our University Goals**

Concord's mission is clear: to provide a quality, liberal arts education that fosters scholarship, creativity, and service. Our university goals are the principal means to assess the effectiveness of our efforts to accomplish that mission. They provide a measurable, manageable, and efficient means of assessment. They render us accountable to our students, faculty, administrators, and, as a public university, the wider community. They provide a comprehensive definition of the parameters of our mission. Finally, they are inclusive, applicable to all of Concord's academic programs, co-curricular and other activities. (T. J. Mc Kenna, 2018)