

1. What should I keep in mind while preparing my Liberal Studies course for the upcoming semester?

The Liberal Studies Program emphasizes the following eight student learning outcomes within its curriculum:

Inquiry	Information Literacy
Critical Thinking	Problem Solving
Means of Expression	Awareness of Self
Awareness of Cultural Diversity	Awareness of Impact

Your course aligns with either 1, 2, or 3 of these outcomes, as designated by your department.

Departments may revise outcomes associated with a course at any time, as long as they keep in mind that ALL sections of a particular course with multiple instructors must align with the same LS outcome(s). For your reference, the [Liberal Studies Assessment website](#) contains a list of outcomes for each LS course at the university.

2. How can I be sure my course aligns with its designated Liberal Studies outcome(s)?

*The assessment process requires that you have **at least one assignment** that allows students to demonstrate the chosen Liberal Studies objective(s) for your course.*

If your course aligns with more than one student learning outcome, there are a couple of ways to approach assignment creation. You might have ONE assignment, for instance, that speaks to the rubrics for both outcomes. This is certainly possible, but it is more complicated to achieve. Alternately, you can have different assignments for EACH outcome - this is the more straightforward approach, but ultimately, the choice is yours. Approach your assignment creation in a way that works for your teaching style and course material.

To review the rubrics for each outcome, please visit the [Liberal Studies Assessment website](#).

If you would like to see a sample assignment for a particular outcome, please contact Jen Schiff, Director of Liberal Studies Assessment, at jsschiff@wcu.edu.

3. Is there anything else I should know before creating my Liberal Studies-aligned assignment?

Periodically, the Director of Liberal Studies Assessment will contact you and collect the completed student work associated with your aligned outcomes. If it is your designated collection semester, you will receive several emails both before and during the semester explaining the submission process in full.

To facilitate the process, you should always have students submit their Liberal Studies-aligned assignment **electronically** (via Canvas, for instance). It is also very helpful if students submit this particular assignment **anonymously**, or without their identifying information on the assignment itself.

Once those student assignments are collected, they are scored against their respective Liberal Studies rubrics during the summer months, and the feedback is sent to instructors every fall. That's how the assessment process works!

4. Should my syllabus include the Liberal Studies learning outcomes for my course?

Yes, absolutely! An example of the appropriate syllabus template language appears below. This is only a model, of course, and you will need to tailor the syllabus template to fit the specifics of your particular class. For more information, please see the Liberal Studies Assessment website.

This course satisfies the P4 Perspective requirement of the Liberal Studies Program.

Specifically, this course will emphasize the following Liberal Studies learning objectives and outcomes:

Awareness of Self - Students will recognize behaviors and define choices that affect their lifelong well-being.

Awareness of Cultural Diversity - Students will critically examine various cultures through historical and contemporary contexts at the local, national, and/or global levels.

Please note that student work from this class may be used in assessment of the Liberal Studies program.

If you have any other questions regarding the Liberal Studies Assessment process, please contact Jen Schiff, Director of Liberal Studies Assessment, at jsschiff@wcu.edu.