

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

The Liberal Studies Program emphasizes the following 10 student learning outcomes within its curriculum:

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

If you teach an LS course, then that course aligns with either 1, 2, or 3 of these outcomes, as designated by your department. To see which outcome(s) map to your own course, please visit the [Liberal Studies Assessment webpage](#) and scroll down to the Curriculum Map.

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. **Each LS objective has a corresponding rubric, and the goal is for student work to demonstrate the qualities articulated within the rubric.***

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 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.

How does the Liberal Studies assessment process work?

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.

Any faculty member teaching a Liberal Studies course is required to submit their completed student work during the semester in which we are collecting for the outcome associated with your course. This includes both full- and part-time faculty.

To facilitate the process, you should have 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.

Which assignment types/files are acceptable to submit for the Liberal Studies assessment process?

We accept a variety of assignment types for the assessment process. **Written assignments of any kind** (generally Word or PDF documents) and **PowerPoints** are formats that work quite well for our assessment. Additionally, we accept handwritten student work that the instructor has scanned and converted to PDF format.

Please do not submit student discussion boards for assessment. Over the past several years, we've found discussion boards are very difficult for us to format for our online assessment workshop each summer. **And please note that we cannot accept video files**, simply due to a lack of storage capacity.

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 examine critically 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.