

The Co-curriculum
Dimensions of Learning

Beloit College

Division of Student Affairs
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Preface

Beloit College seeks to create learning environments, both in and out of the classroom, where students are encouraged to achieve their full intellectual, personal, social, emotional, athletic and spiritual potential. Throughout the undergraduate experience at Beloit College, the institution seeks to educate the “whole person” by encouraging students to be “engaged” with the learning process. And while the College’s Curriculum focuses primarily on students’ intellectual development, the Division of Student Affairs’ Co-Curriculum outlines the Colleges’ goals and objectives for the student learning which takes place outside of the classroom. Creating an environment which institutional goals for student learning, growth, and development can be achieved ensures that Beloit graduates will be prepared to meet the many challenges they will face throughout their lives.

Beloit’s Co-Curriculum is based upon Chickering’s and Reisser’s (1993) Seven Vectors of Development theory. This allows for Student Affairs personnel to be more intentional when developing and assessing goals and objectives. Additionally, outcome measurements provide important data to be used during the budgeting process, when making decisions, developing programs, and when implementing strategic initiatives which address immediate campus life concerns.

The following Co-Curriculum Will require regular review and updates as members of the staff continue to implement the goals and objectives in the programs and services provided to students – services that support, and enhance, the College’s living/learning environment. Data obtained through formal and informal assessment processes, which can be compared with nationally-normed studies and current research, will be used to update or modify the Co-curriculum as well as departmental initiatives.

Beloit College is committed to forming and implementing co-curriculum activities and services where students can learn and develop.

MISSION STATEMENT

With students we create an engaging learning community that promotes academic and personal success, growth and development and life enriching experiences. We will intentionally prepare our students and graduates for success in a diverse and ever-changing society.

WE VALUE

- The opportunity to learn from the healthy discourse of values, beliefs, thoughts, ideas and experiences in a student-centered, residential community;
- The passion, motivation, preparation, commitment, and perseverance needed to succeed academically , emotionally, and physically;
- The intentional development of the whole person in a challenging, supportive, and diverse environment;
- Treating people as individuals;
- Diversity;
- Decisions made ethically, with integrity, honesty and personal responsibility;
- The development of independence, interdependence, self-confidence, self-esteem and respect for self and others;
- The creation and development of positive relationships that are ethically, respectful, and meaningful;
- Leadership and civic engagement in our local and global society;
- On-going professional development and collaboration.

Introduction

As a small, residential, non-sectarian, selective, liberal arts college, Beloit College's primary aim is to provide a learning and living environment dedicated to liberal education. Beloit College seeks to prepare its students for intelligent and responsible participation in the contemporary world of actions. We aim to prepare students to become citizens who make critical and productive connections between thought and action in all aspects of their lives. Therefore, we encourage students to include an applied or experiential dimension in their educational program, take responsibility for their thoughts and actions, and encourage the growth and development of the "whole person."

The Student Affairs mission embraces these aims through the following co-curricular goals:

- promoting student learning, growth and development through residential and co-curricular experiences of the highest quality;
- supporting and integrating student's out-of class learning with the College's academic program;
- seeking to educate the whole person;
- seeking to help students develop the skills, knowledge and maturity necessary to be good citizens in a diverse and ever-changing global community and to live productive and fulfilling lives;
- being consistent with the College's mission and values.

To achieve these goals the co-curriculum is modeled on developmental theories which suggest that students move from a rather insular view of themselves and the world. As a result of their experiences and learning which occurs both in-and out-of the classroom they develop into individuals with a more defined identity and pluralistic view of the world. Specifically, as students move along this continuum of cognitive and personal development they:

- develop a sense of purpose where they are able to formulate personal, intellectual, and career goals;
- develop competence and experience growth in their intellectual, interpersonal, and physical skills through achievements and interactions with the curriculum and co-curriculum;
- learn to manage their emotions in order to balance self expression with responsible actions;
- move through autonomy toward interdependence through interactions and exposure to those different from themselves and by increasing their capacity for intimacy and empathy and develop respect for human differences;
- develop their personal identity by becoming aware of their gender, sexual orientation, self acceptance, and self esteem;
- develop integrity by learning that personal responsibility and integrity are the essential qualities necessary for life, work, and community living.

The following goals, objectives and the means for achieving them describe the process by which the Division of Student Affairs promotes, supports, implements, and assesses co-curricular learning at Beloit College.

Co-curricular Dimensions of Learning

Competence

Students will experience growth in their intellectual, interpersonal, and physical skills through their achievements and interactions with the curriculum and co-curriculum

Intellectual Competency

Objective: **Students will successfully complete their undergraduate liberal arts degree in a timely fashion.**

Objective: **Students will encounter, listen to, consider and seek out differing points view.**

Objective: **Students will expand upon their critical thinking skills (i.e., the capacity to comprehend, analyze, and synthesize complex issues).**

Objective: **Students will be able to make thoughtful connection between theory, observations, experiences, thought and actions.**

Objective: **Students will improve their ability to use technology.**

Objective: **Students will explore and engage their creative abilities.**

Objective: **Students will increase their cultural and aesthetic appreciation.**

Objective: **Students will learn how to manage their financial responsibilities.**

Physical Competency

Objective: **Students will be educated regarding the choices and strategies necessary to develop a healthy lifestyle.**

Objective: **Students will have opportunities to develop and express their physical creative capacities.**

Objective: **Students will have opportunities to participate in Athletic programs, and recreational and other physical activities.**

Objective: **Students will understand the importance of incorporating physical and recreational opportunities into their lives.**

Interpersonal Competency

Objective: **Students will develop their leadership capacity and understand their style.**

Objective: **Students will develop and demonstrate respect for themselves and others.**

Objective: **Students will develop and demonstrate effective interpersonal communication skills (i.e. speak clearly and articulately, listen, and clearly articulate meaning in a written form) with individuals from a variety of backgrounds.**

Objective: **Students will learn to be effective contributors to group processes.**

Objective: **Students will learn skills needed to establish healthy relationships.**

Purpose

Students will identify or formulate personal, intellectual and career goals

Objective: **Students will identify vocational goals.**

Objective: **Students will be able to formulate personal goals and select activities that enable them to accomplish those goals.**

Objective: **Students will demonstrate sustained commitment to co-curricular activities.**

Integrity

Students will learn that personal responsibility and integrity are essential qualities necessary for life, work, and community living

Objective: **Students will be able to identify and articulate their personal values and beliefs.**

Objective: **Students will assess their own actions and behavior according to their values and beliefs and within the context of a wider society.**

Objective: **Students will affirm the importance of congruence between thought and action, words and actions, and authenticity in their academic and personal lives.**

Objective: **Students will recognize the importance of being engaged citizens and their role in responding to the needs of society.**

Objective: **Students will make connections between policies and rules, and their purpose *for the good of the community.***

Objective: **Students will take responsibility for their actions.**

Autonomy Toward Interdependence

Students will become more independent while learning to integrate the value of their needs with that of the broader community

Objective: **Students will gain understanding of their strengths and weaknesses.**

Objective: **Students will develop their problem solving and coping abilities.**

Objective: **Students will learn how to locate and use necessary and appropriate resources.**

Objective: **Students will increase their level of self-sufficiency.**

Objective: **Students will identify their personal values and beliefs.**

Objective: **Students will understand the interconnectedness of themselves, their family, their community, the nation, and the world.**

Emotions

Students will learn to manage their emotions in order to balance self expression with responsible actions

Objective: **Students will acquire the ability to appropriately express their emotions in a healthy and productive manner.**

Objective: **Students will be aware of others' emotions and respond in a mature, thoughtful manner.**

Objective: **Students will become aware of their own emotions and understand the effects on self and others.**

Objective: **Students will accept and allow themselves to experience a full range of emotions.**

Developing Mature Interpersonal Relationships

Through interactions and exposure to those different from ourselves students will increase in their capacity for intimacy and empathy and develop respect for human differences

Objective: **Students will develop understanding and appreciation of others and their experiences.**

Objective: **Students will recognize and respect differences in personal attributes* of others.**

Objective: **Students will develop healthy and lasting relationships with people from various backgrounds.**

Objective: **Students will recognize commonalities between themselves and others.**

Objective: **Students will develop understanding of how their background may impact their current and future relationships.**

Objective: **Students will understand how their actions and inactions will have a direct effect on their relationships with others.**

Identity

Students will become aware of their personal identity with regards to gender, sexual orientation, self acceptance, and self esteem

Objective: **Students develop positive self-esteem and feelings of self-worth.**

Objective: **Students will determine what roles, lifestyle and beliefs are consistent with their sense of self.**

Objective: **Students will explore their spirituality.**

Objective: **Students will develop an understanding of how their background influences their identity.**

Objective: **Students will critically examine and determine the impact of college experiences on their identity development.**

Objective: **Students will critically examine their personal attributes.***

Objective: **Students will develop a sense of identity that incorporates their personal attributes.***

**The term “personal attributes” includes ability, culture, ethnicity, gender, physical stature, race, sex, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic positioning as well as their beliefs, values and interests.*