University of Wisconsin-GREEN BAY

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PURPOSE

The MLLO Project focuses on how the student experience at the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay accomplishes five key learning outcomes specified in our special, or "select", mission. The project demonstrates how we strive to make continuous improvement in all aspects of the student experience that our mission says we provide.

University of Wisconsin-Green Bay Select Mission

The University of Wisconsin-Green Bay provides an interdisciplinary, problem-focused educational experience that prepares students to think critically and address complex issues in a multicultural and evolving world. The University enriches the quality of life for students and the community by embracing the educational value of diversity, promoting environmental sustainability, encouraging engaged citizenship, and serving as an intellectual, cultural, and economic resource.

General Education Experience FOCUS Life Freshmen Curricular Seminars Activities Student **Learning Objectives** Interdisciplinary, problem-focus Critical thinking Service Diversity Majors Environmental sustainability Learning **Employ-**Minors Inter-Individual national Learning Education

Assessing Mission Level Learning Outcomes

The MLLO Project

WWW.UWGB.EDU/MLLO

State planning documents from UWGB's founding, in 1965, specified that "The new campus will be strongly innovative and experimental.... The key figure will be the student in his role as learner." The original academic plan provided an "institution-wide focus on aspects of the human environment" and emphasized "learning in the community as well as the classroom". As the University has grown over the years, its commitment to the five key themes identified in the mission statement (left) has The University's difficulty in remained constant. assessing the value of those key elements has been equally persistent! The MLLO Project aspires to

- Document how well we are implementing our mission.
- Deepen our collective understanding of the core mission components.
- Broaden our understanding of the total student experience at UW-Green Bay.
- Expand the use of best practices in aligning effective learning experiences with the obtainment of MLLOs (Mission Level Learning Objectives).
- Clarify for students those things that exemplify the UW-Green Bay learning experience, particularly as it relates to our MLLOs.

The MLLO Project steering committee, which formed in February 2008 at the winter Academy for the Assessment of Student Learning Roundtable, set its first task as building an inventory of opportunities available to students that are intended to teach them something about one or more of the five key mission objectives. We envision that students acquire skills related to sustainability, citizenship, critical thinking, diversity and interdisciplinary, problem-solving through a very wide range of intentionally planned experiences involving the entire campus:

Inventory schematic example

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| Intentional experiences | Interdisciplinary, Problem-focus | Critical Thinking | Diversity | Environmental Sustainability | Citizenship |
| General Education | 78 | | Ethnic Studies Requirement | Natural Physical Sciences Requirement | World Cultures Requirement |
| Residence Life | | Residence Hall Assistant positions | Diversity (programming) | Recycling & Energy Conservation (programming) | Peer Boards; Leadership Development programs |
| International Education | | | Study Abroad – Merida, Antigua, Guatemala | Travel Course – Costa Rica | Study Abroad – The Hague |
| Major: Social Change and Development | Senior Seminar in Social Change and Development (required course) | Models of Social Change (required course) | Social Change in Selected Area (required course) | | Internship |

WORK COMPLETED

In July 2008 we gathered information from Campus Life employees about how their programs impact students' mastery of the five mission-level objectives. In January 2009 we collected feedback from staff in the Information Services unit, who do not routinely focus on teaching students these mission-level skills, about how they see their work with students impacting the mission. In Winter 2009 we gathered information from each undergraduate academic major about how its requirements relate to the five mission-level objectives. The form used for the academic majors is shown below. (Data-collection forms for each group varied slightly and can downloaded from http://www.uwgb.edu/MLLO/resources.htm;.)

MLLO Project Data Collection Form: Academic Majors We want to learn more about the required and recommended elements of this major Questions should be directed to Debbie Furlong, <u>furlong@uwgb.edu</u> which relate to the various MLLOs. Few, if any, majors will have requirements or activities that relate to all five MLLOs. Name of major: Brief description of the requirement or activity: The text box will expand to accommodate your en try to stay focused on this special subset of activities and requirements recommended to all students with this major Rate the centrality of each UW-Green Bay MLLO (mission-level learning objective) to this major's own learning outcomes. Use the following scale as a guide. neither required nor recommended, but available as an option Which MLLOs does this activity address? (Check all that apply 4 The MLLO corresponds to a stated learning outcome of a course or activity required fo ■ Diversity or Multicultural Competence Interdiscipii nary, problem-focused: This major teach students to address complex problems from an thinking skills.

Diversity or multicultural competence: This major teaches students the value of diversity and improves students how to make environmentally sustainable

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

SUMMER 2009

Build an on-line, searchable database of mission-oriented student learning experiences using the data collected over the past year. Faculty, staff and students can use the database to quickly identify opportunities to deepen student mastery of the five MLLOs.

Establish a 5-year assessment plan for the MLLOs, beginning with the assessment of interdisciplinary, problem-focused learning.

> 2009-10

Implement the assessment of experiences directed at interdisciplinary, problem-focused learning.

Build a catalog of definitions that programs use to teach and assess "interdisciplinary" and/or "problem-focused" learning.

Share best practices for teaching interdisciplinary, problem-focused learning.

> 2010-11

Revise the MLLO assessment plan based on experiences from 2009-10 and implement the plan for the next MLLO (probably environmental sustainability).

Learn more and watch our progress unfold at www.uwgb.edu/MLLO

