Proposal for AA Degree Cornerstone Project

The proposed project requires AA degree seeking students to complete their degrees with a cornerstone project that synthesizes their educational experience across the curriculum. Students enrolled in cornerstone designated classes will collaborate with their instructor for their cornerstone projects.

The cornerstone project is an opportunity for students to demonstrate that they have achieved the general education/liberal arts program student learning outcomes which encompass five areas: thinking/inquiry, communication, self and community, aesthetic engagement, and integrated learning. The cornerstone requires the application of learning to a project which serves as an instrument of evaluation. The project should foster interdisciplinary partnerships among the departments and lead to a deeper understanding of students’ attainment of general education curricular outcomes. Because of the interdisciplinary nature of the cornerstone project, learning communities are encouraged to apply for the cornerstone designation.

Cornerstone designated classes are non-introductory courses which provide the student with an opportunity to learn new material through the normal portion of the course and, simultaneously through the cornerstone portion, to integrate material and skills learned in previous courses by completing a project that encompasses research, analysis, synthesis evaluation, and reflection. Projects will be determined by the faculty and can include papers, creative projects, portfolios, service learning, and internships, etc.

The cornerstone project should include the context, ethics, aesthetics, and problems/solutions that surround substantive issues and themes germane to the designated class. It should provide evidence of student achievement in at least three of the five general education areas.

The cornerstone project will be assessed by the instructor as part of the student grade for the class. It will also be assessed by a committee of cross disciplinary general education faculty who analyze and make recommendations to improve the College’s liberal arts program.

Classes designated as cornerstones will have a maximum enrollment of 20 students and may also be designated as a writing intensive course or meet other AA degree requirements.

Students can qualify to take a cornerstone designated class after they have successfully completed their foundation requirements (1 course in written communication, 1 course in symbolic reasoning, and 1 course in global and multicultural perspectives).