

Annual Report on Program Student Learning Outcomes Assessment

Program: College of Arts & Sciences: Foundational Skills for the BA
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Date: October 2013

1. List the learning outcomes for the program.

Overall Outcome: Students demonstrate skills in writing, communication, and quantitative reasoning that allow full participation in the intellectual life of the university and begin to lay foundations for professional and civic life in local and global contexts.

I. Writing. On completion of the CAS Writing requirement (CAS WR 150 or equivalent), students will be able to:

1. Read texts in English with understanding and engagement sufficient for beginning study of any arts and sciences discipline
2. Construct and revise substantive, coherent arguments that respond productively to the writing of others
3. Write clear, correct English prose appropriate to an academic setting
4. Understand and conduct research-based writing as a series of tasks, including the ethical use and citation of sources
5. Converse thoughtfully about complex ideas

II. Foreign Language. On completion of the CAS Foreign Language Requirement (fourth-semester course or equivalent), students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate functional proficiency in all relevant modalities of a language other than English at a level that allows for basic communication
2. Apply the cognitive skills and dispositions for language learning they have acquired to continue in that language to more advanced levels of proficiency
3. Use that language to acquire knowledge of cultural values, beliefs, perspectives, behaviors, and achievements
4. Compare one language and culture with another, and identify intercultural awareness as a necessary component of education for global citizenship
5. Take an empirical, comparative approach to developing insights into the nature and structure of language

III. Mathematics. On completion of the CAS Mathematics Requirement (one course numbered CAS MA 109 or higher, or equivalent), students will be able to:

1. Draw on knowledge and understanding across areas of mathematics to develop and assess simple arithmetic, algebraic, and geometric arguments
 2. Use basic quantitative reasoning skills in solving unfamiliar problems related to a particular topic in mathematics or statistics
 3. Demonstrate basic competency in mathematics by applying these quantitative reasoning skills in subsequent courses throughout the university
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2. Where are these outcomes published? (All outcomes will be published on the University assessment website [url TBA]; if you publish your outcomes on your website, which is recommended, please provide the url)

To be posted:

CAS website: <http://www.bu.edu/cas/academics/undergraduate-education/>

Bulletin: <http://www.bu.edu/academics/cas/programs/degree-overview/>