

Professionalism at LSC

Professional Fluency Week

Monday, September 16, 2024 - through Friday, September 20, 2024

Lake Superior College holds its College-wide outcomes in high esteem. You will note that Professional and Personal Responsibilities are listed first. The faculty and staff at LSC not only prepare learners in their disciplines and trades, we prepare people to succeed and thrive in the workplace, present their best selves, be responsible for their actions and work ethic, and strive to continuously improve through lifelong learning.

Our faculty teach these skills and measure the outcomes with a rubric developed and periodically refined by LSC faculty. In fact, they also developed a guide for how to teach these professional skills and abilities adaptable to any discipline. Our staff reinforce these skills, particularly those of you who supervise student workers. And this attention to professional skills in our classrooms and throughout the campus is quite effective. Just ask any of our businesses and industry partners about the LSC folks they hire. I certainly do ask as I move about the city, and I have been told over and over that LSC prepares students to be knowledgeable in their field and professional in their attitude and approach to the workplace. I hear it from people who see my LSC pin at Chamber meetings and APEX meetings and various other community group gatherings and want to share their stories about how their LSC-prepared employees excel at their work and have become vital to their enterprise. Many leaders in our local businesses and industries have proudly told me they had their start at LSC. They look back fondly and often mention faculty or staff by name who mentored or encouraged or inspired them. This is a great testimony to the work you do every day.

As you review our College-wide outcomes, you will see that professional skills and abilities are embedded in everything we value. The Intellectual and Practical Skills outcomes read like a blueprint for the desired characteristics every employer is looking for in their employees. I use this list when someone questions why we have liberal arts when it is the technical programs that translate into workforce. I ask “are you looking for



College-Wide Outcomes

The following learning outcomes describe the knowledge, skills, and responsibilities our students should acquire as a result of their studies at Lake Superior College.

Professional and Personal Responsibilities, including:

- Professional demeanor
 - Initiative and accountability
 - Adherence to organizational expectations
 - Self-development and lifelong learning
- Demonstrated through appropriate behaviors

Foundational Knowledge of the Intellectual, Social, and Natural World, through study in:

- Career-focused programs
- Liberal arts
- Sciences

Focused by engagement with discipline-specific questions, both contemporary and enduring

Intellectual and Practical Skills, including:

- Critical and creative thinking
- Information literacy
- Inquiry and analysis
- Quantitative literacy
- Synthesis and application
- Teamwork and problem solving
- Written and oral communication

Practiced extensively, across the curriculum, in the context of progressively more challenging problems, projects, and standards for performance

Social Responsibilities, including:

- Awareness and practice of sustainability
- Civic involvement
- Ethical reasoning and action
- Intercultural competence

Anchored through active involvement with diverse communities and real-world challenges

Adapted from AAC&U Essential Learning Outcomes • Approved by AASC 12/2/09, effective 8/23/10, rev. 3/1/17

an employee who can think creatively, analyze and interpret data, work in a team, solve problems, and communicate effectively? Well, that is an English major, who achieves an AA degree, and at LSC, that is a person who is a welder or a carpenter.” All our students have some measure of gaining these professional skills in every program. We expect it, we take time to teach it, and we measure our effectiveness.

And colleagues, these professional skills and abilities are not demonstrated only by our students. All of us are role models for professionalism and what it means to be dedicated to our work. Through our own professional development opportunities, we strive to ensure that each LSC employee has the ability to gain new knowledge skills which reinforces our goal for lifelong learning for all of us: faculty and staff (which includes administrators).

I am proud to be a part of the dedicated faculty and staff at Lake Superior College and I was proud to emphasize our commitment to these outcomes with our HLC site visit team. Our success with that visit (a “perfect score”), is because of all of you and your professionalism and commitment to Lake Superior College’s College-wide outcomes! My sincere thanks and congratulations on continuing to focus on student success. Thank you for your professionalism and dedication to excellence in everything we do for our students and our community.

Be well and enjoy the beginning of fall weather.

For more details on Professional Fluency at LSC, see:
<https://www.lsc.edu/cfi/professional-fluency/>