

## Information Literacy Student Learning Goals

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education, in the 2002 edition of *Characteristics of Excellence in Higher Education: Eligibility Requirements and Standards for Accreditation*, defines information literacy as:

An intellectual framework for identifying, finding, understanding, evaluating, and using information.

It includes:

- Determining the nature and extent of needed information
- Accessing information effectively and efficiently
- Evaluating critically information and its sources
- Incorporating selected information in the learner's knowledge base and value system
- Using information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- Understanding the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information and information technology
- Observing laws, regulations, and institutional policies related to the access and use of information (p.32).

Student-centric learning goals based on this definition:

(Based on *Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education* (Association of College and Research Libraries, 2000))

### Determine the Nature and Extent of Needed Information

#### FYP Learning Goal:

Student is able to develop a clear thesis statement and formulate a research question appropriate to the breadth and depth of the research project, within the limits of time and available resources. Student is able to differentiate between peer reviewed and popular information sources.

#### Department Major Learning Goal:

Student is able to use information to refine and reevaluate a thesis and to support his or her own arguments. Student is able to differentiate between primary and secondary information sources.

#### Senior Year Experience Learning Goal:

Student is able to combine information with original thought, analysis and experimentation to produce new information. Student is able to use primary sources, secondary sources and raw data to produce this new information.

### Access Information Effectively and Efficiently

#### FYP Learning Goal:

Student understands that there are a broad range of information sources (books, scholarly journals, newspapers, magazines, government documents, websites) and knows where to start looking for each.

Department Major Learning Goal:

Student is able to identify the most appropriate information sources and is able to develop effective search strategies in each source. Student is able to revise search strategies as appropriate.

Senior Year Experience Learning Goal:

Student employs discipline-specific search vocabulary as well as discipline-specific research strategies (surveys, questionnaires, interviews, experimentation).

Evaluate Information Sources and Content
--

FYP Learning Goal:

Student is able to examine and compare information from a variety of sources to evaluate for reliability, validity, timeliness, authority and bias. Student investigates differing viewpoints.

Department Major Learning Goal:

Student is able to investigate differing viewpoints and reject those which are prejudiced, deceptive, or manipulative. Student compares new information with prior knowledge to develop a critical response to the information.

Senior Year Experience Learning Goal:

Student is able to determine the probable accuracy of information by questioning the source and the reasonableness of conclusions. Student understands the impact of the context (cultural, physical) within which the information was created. Student integrates new information with prior knowledge to develop a critical response.

Use Information Effectively to Accomplish a Specific Purpose
--

FYP Learning Goal:

Student is able to select and summarize key concepts. Student is able to organize content to support the purposes of the research.

Department Major Learning Goal:

Student is able to determine the optimum communication medium to best support the purpose of the research. Student understands and employs the recursive nature of the information literacy process.

Senior Year Experience Learning Goal:

Student is able to produce high-quality content which reflects new knowledge, insights or theories.

Understand the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information and information technology; observe laws, regulations, and institutional policies related to the access and use of information
---

FYP Learning Goal:

Student understands what plagiarism is and does not plagiarize; student uses appropriate documentation style for citing sources.

Department Major Learning Goal:

Student observes copyright laws; understands issues of privacy, security, censorship and freedom of speech.

Senior Year Experience Learning Goal:

Student understands issues of intellectual property, copyright and fair use of copyrighted materials.  
(Rhonda Courtney, Access Services Librarian, 2006)