

## Kirkwood Student Learning Outcomes

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### Philosophy Statement

Kirkwood Community College is committed to a well-rounded education for the widest variety of learners. Its spirit was captured by Bud Jensen on April 25, 1967 when he gave his now-famous “Hands of the Bricklayer” speech to the Iowa Legislature in support of comprehensive community colleges: “These are the hands of a bricklayer. They are calloused and hard but they have given both me and my family an excellent living. Would you deny these hands or the hands of my children and other children throughout the state the right or opportunity to read a good book? To caress a book of poetry or to learn something about higher math?”

Kirkwood’s goal is to provide a foundational learning experience that prepares flexible, adaptable learners capable of integrating and translating knowledge from one aspect of life to another. Students will develop general and specific skills for the workplace, cultivate a rich inner life, and participate more effectively as citizens in their community, the country, and the world.

### Kirkwood Student Learning Outcomes

#### Analytic Inquiry

Graduates will examine complex questions and problems and integrate resources, theories and practical approaches to make decisions and propose solutions.

##### Rationale

Analytic inquiry enables one to critically examine complex questions, problems, and materials of all types. Graduates should be able to identify and frame a problem or question, examine theoretical and practical strategies, and integrate the appropriate resources to facilitate decision-making and problem-solving.

#### Civic Engagement

Graduates will demonstrate skills necessary to engage with their communities.

##### Rationale

Civic engagement means thinking and acting in ways that make a positive difference in communities. Graduates should be prepared for knowledgeable and responsible participation in geographic, professional, and personal communities.

#### Collaboration and Teamwork

Graduates will be able to work constructively as part of a team to achieve a common goal.

##### Rationale

The ability to collaborate on a team is essential for being successful in professional, community, and family roles in society. Understanding team dynamics allows one to contribute productively to a group. Graduates should be able to treat members respectfully, recognize how their share contributes to the greater whole, and allows for the recognition of others’ contributions.

## Communication

Graduates will demonstrate effective communication.

### Rationale

Reaching a shared understanding of meaning depends on effective use of written and oral language as well as intentional discussion and negotiation with others. Graduates should be able to use appropriate communication in a variety of situations and contexts.

## Diversity and Inclusion

Graduates will be able to engage with people and ideas different from their own.

### Rationale

Diversity includes knowing how to respectfully relate to qualities and experiences different from our own. It means more than recognizing and tolerating difference. Graduates should be able to perceive the world through the eyes of others and appreciate how including different perspectives can lead to creative, innovative solutions.

## Ethical Reasoning

Graduates will demonstrate the process necessary to make ethical choices.

### Rationale

Ethical reasoning enables one to examine assumptions and different points of view, and consider the implications of decisions. Ethical Reasoning is more than adhering to social norms, institutional policies, or obeying the law. The crux of it is respecting others through reasoning about helpful and harmful conduct. Graduates should be able to recognize ethical issues in a variety of settings, analyze positions on ethical issues, and practice ethical decision-making skills.

## Information Literacy

Graduates will be able to find, organize, evaluate and use information.

### Rationale

Thinking critically about information is essential for effective problem solving and decision making. It is important to know when and where to locate information, how to evaluate sources of information, and how to responsibly use and share information. Graduates should be able to identify and determine what information is accurate and relevant to various situations and contexts.

## Quantitative Reasoning

Graduates will be able to apply quantitative reasoning to analyze and interpret problems and scenarios.

### Rationale

Quantitative reasoning means to critically analyze a situation to select appropriate quantitative principles or concepts, apply them correctly, and accurately interpret the results. Graduates should be able to apply scientific and mathematical concepts and principles to explain or test phenomena, model real-world situations, and propose solutions to quantifiable problems.