



Walla Walla Community College

Policy: Philosophy Statement

Adopted: March 19, 1970

Educational Philosophy and Purposes, New Campus - Phase I

Philosophy

The College exists to assist in the further development of the communities it serves. It does this through serving the individuals and groups who attend the educational experiences it currently provides, or may develop in the future in response to community needs (i.e., programs of studies, certificate and degree programs, single courses, conferences, seminars, and cultural events, etc.).

The College is unusually "student oriented" and shares responsibility for the ultimate success of every student who conscientiously persists in the experiences provided. It does this through a process which includes:

1. Defined alternative plans and programs,
2. Measurable goals and objectives for each unit, course or program,
3. A wide variety of learning options and contingency plans to be brought into play when the basic instructional strategies prove to be inappropriate for a particular student or group, resulting in predictable learner achievement.

Thus, the programs are everchanging and the College realizes it must be constantly updating its programs and portions of programs to keep them relevant in our rapidly changing society.

Purposes:

The learning experiences provided are individualized and allow student-paced learning whenever possible. In addition, routine assessment of the student's ability is made prior to every major learning experience to insure that each student enters the instructional sequence at the most appropriate point, in terms of his previous learning.

When a student is not able to accomplish an objective, he is not penalized. Other instructional situations are provided until the student eventually reaches that objective. In this way, the instructional staff, assuming the student persists in attempting to achieve the objectives, guarantees the ultimate success of every student in accomplishing the required objectives for every unit, course or program.

The required objectives and activities for every unit, course or program will be modified for a student whose unique background makes any objective, or group of objectives, inappropriate. In this way, the quality of instruction becomes individualized as a result of "quality-designed instruction."

Curricular Emphasis

Each student's program will stress problem-solving and inquiry skills in addition to the acquisition of facts and coverage of content. Typical inquiry and problem-solving competencies equally useful in other course work and daily life include:

1. Critical analysis,
2. Generalization skills,
3. Divergent thinking and original and creative synthesis,
4. Comparing and contrasting skills.

Emphasis is given to the processes of:

1. Sensing and defining personal and community needs,
2. Defining and delimiting problems,
3. Generating and testing hypotheses,
4. Summarizing results,
5. Documenting and drawing inferences,
6. Redefining problems.

Community Service:

Since the College is committed to community service, it expects students to learn responsibility for community service as well. During his career at the College, each student is expected to identify an area of need in the community, analyze how he (or a group of students) can partially satisfy the need and make a contribution to the community through service related to his course work. The contribution of service could range from tutoring youth through starting a small business or public service organization, so long as what is needed in the community is partially achieved as a result of the actions of students in the college.

Summary:

The College views itself as a medium for change and the various courses and programs of Walla Walla Community College stress accountability for tangible results which foster community development.

Accountability:

by:	to:	for:
the student . . .	himself and the community. conscientiously striving to reach objectives
the College . . .	the community and State. tangible accomplishments per dollar spent
the instructor	the student. the student's eventual success in each unit / course / program.