



HLC Accreditation Evidence

Title: Fundamental Outcomes

Office of Origin: Vice President of Instruction

Fundamental Outcomes

The fundamental outcomes relate the relevance of a given subject to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and values which enable them to be productive in work, family, and community. These outcomes and their assessment are reviewed biannually by the Outcomes Assessment Committee and annually by Barton's Board of Trustees.

The five fundamental outcomes are as follows:

- 1. Critical Thinking**
Study a given subject critically, including processes to analyze and synthesize important parts of the subject, to ask appropriate and useful questions about the study of this subject, and to solve problems within the subject area.
- 2. Life-Long Learning**
Relate the relevance of a given subject to the individual student's life, to develop habits that encourage life-long, responsible and independent learning, and to apply appropriate and useful knowledge of the values, conventions, and institutions within an academic discipline.
- 3. Historical Perspective**
Describe how history works, including how historical perspective can strengthen understanding of a given academic subject, and how the history of human endeavor has helped develop that subject.
- 4. Technological Perspective**
Explain how technologies affect important parts of human life and how information technologies shape the study of a given subject.
- 5. Cultural Perspective**
Explain how culture develops through various aspects of human endeavor, how culture develops understanding of a given subject, and how a given subject develops within different cultures.

These outcomes are designed to ensure that all certificate and degree-seeking students learn the same general competencies even when they take different general education courses. This emphasis on critical thinking, life-long learning, and the formulation of essential perspectives forms not only the foundation of the General Education curriculum but also the course level outcomes and competencies.