

**University Undergraduate Learning Goals**  
**Critical Thinking**  
February 2, 2015

**Learning Goal: Critical Thinking**

EIU graduates question, examine, evaluate, and respond to problems or arguments by:

1. Asking essential questions and engaging diverse perspectives.
2. Seeking and gathering data, information, and knowledge from experience, texts, graphics, and media.
3. Understanding, interpreting, and critiquing relevant data, information, and knowledge.
4. Synthesizing and integrating data, information, and knowledge to infer and create new insights
5. Anticipating, reflecting upon, and evaluating implications of assumptions, arguments, hypotheses, and conclusions.
6. Creating and presenting defensible expressions, arguments, positions, hypotheses, and proposals.

**Questions to Consider**

As you work together in your program areas, you can start by doing some “curriculum mapping” by asking yourselves some of the questions below:

- Where are we currently teaching critical thinking?
- Do we have learning objectives for critical thinking?
- How is critical thinking being assessed in our classes? (Take a look at your assessment plan for your program area)
- What are we teaching (content) and how is it being delivered/received (process)?
- Overall, where is critical thinking being addressed over the course of our program area’s curriculum? (Does the course sequencing address the learning goals over time, so that the learning goals are delivered cohesively and comprehensively)

**Recommendations**

1. Define essential learning outcomes related to the learning goals you have for your majors.
2. Look at where you are currently teaching these skills in your curriculum (curriculum map); discuss level/types of critical thinking expected of students.
3. Make decisions about how much and where you could/should be targeting the learning goal (s).
4. Update the course(s) if needed.
5. Determine how you will assess if students have met expectations.
6. Think about how you will monitor assessment results.

**Resources**

There are some great resources for you on the Undergraduate Learning Goals website:

<http://www.eiu.edu/learninggoals>. You will find Critical Thinking listed on the left-hand side and a site devoted specifically to Critical Thinking that offers videos, rubrics, assignments and many other great resources.