

Otterbein Integrative Studies Mission Statement and Goals

MISSION: The Integrative Studies program aims to prepare Otterbein undergraduates for the challenges and complexity of a 21st century world. It foregrounds interdisciplinary and integrative skills, competencies, and ways of knowing and is committed to the premise that one's learning should serve and shape one's chosen responsibilities in and to the world.

GOAL ONE: To inspire intellectual curiosity about the world as it is and a deeper understanding of the global condition.

Outcomes:

Students can articulate the historical and contemporary significance of global interconnections and interdependencies in human, natural and physical worlds.

Students explore and analyze the dynamic relationship of global and local issues or problems.

Students understand sustainability as an economic, social and environmental practice.

Students imagine and critically explore likely and alternative global futures.

GOAL TWO: To assist students in cultivating intercultural knowledge and competencies.

Outcomes:

Students gain enhanced understanding of the diversity of ideas, beliefs and practices across cultures and throughout historical eras.

Students gain enhanced understanding of the cultural diversity that shapes local communities.

Students recognize the interactive and dynamic relationship of global and local communities.

GOAL THREE: To promote active and critical reflection on the human self and its place in the world.

Outcomes:

Students study the self and the ways in which it is situated in human, natural, and physical worlds.

Students analyze and reflect on their own sources of identity and values.

Students explore enduring and contemporary questions about human meaning and purpose.

Students recognize and engage with that which is other or unfamiliar to them.

GOAL FOUR: To challenge students to critically examine their ethical responsibilities and choices in both local and global contexts.

Outcomes:

Students affirm the value of an enlarged ethical responsibility to other persons, the natural world, and future generations.

Students explore and engage their relationship to the global public good as well as the larger goals of human and ecological flourishing.

Students appreciate sustainability as an economic, social and environmental value.

GOAL FIVE: To encourage purposeful public engagement and social responsibility.

Outcomes:

Students demonstrate the intellectual and practical skills necessary for meaningful work and active participation in the local community and the larger world.

Students investigate multiple and evolving forms of civic identification and belonging, with particular attention to the practice of citizenship in local, national and global contexts.

Students explore the value of purposeful action in the face of the pressing problems of the 21st century.

Students come to see themselves as responsible, engaged and informed persons, capable and willing to act in ways that will improve or reshape the world.