

BACCALAUREATE REVIEW - APPENDIX A

Baccalaureate Review Online Survey

The NIU Strategic Planning Imperative identified general education reform as a top priority. The first phase of this reform requires a review and discussion of the university's baccalaureate degree goals. That is to say, what skills, knowledge, and abilities should NIU graduates achieve? What values and ideals should be promoted?

During the Spring 2009 semester, the NIU Baccalaureate Review Task Force will gather information on these questions through two primary strategies, i.e., focus groups and a web-based survey. During February – April, a number of focus groups will be held with various constituencies to gather their ideas. The Task Force recognizes, however, that some individuals may not have an opportunity to participate in a focus group. Consequently, an online survey was developed. Its content is similar to that used during the focus groups.

The information gathered through the focus groups and online survey will be shared with the university community and other interested groups. After goals are drafted, they will be submitted to appropriate university governance bodies for review.

If you would like to provide feedback regarding NIU's Baccalaureate Review, please take a few minutes to respond to this survey. There are three parts. Part One asks you to rate the importance of potential baccalaureate learning goals as well as provide additional goals. Part Two provides an opportunity to write a narrative response to questions regarding what NIU students should know and be able to do. Part Three asks you to provide demographic information to help us better understand who participated.

Your participation in this survey is entirely voluntary. Although you are encouraged to answer all questions, this is not required. If you have any questions regarding this survey, you may contact Professor Greg Long at glong@niu.edu or 815.753.6508. If you want information regarding your rights, please contact the Office of Research Compliance at Northern Illinois University at 815.753.8524.

Sincerely,

Greg Long and Earl Seaver

Co-Chairs, Baccalaureate Review Task Force

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PART ONE

Please use the following four-point scale:

E = Essential, I = Important, H = helpful, N = not related

Promote a literate society

Students who obtain an NIU baccalaureate degree will....

- Exhibit information and quantitative literacy
- Access and critically use various information sources
- Demonstrate written and oral English competence
- Understand and articulate the significance of the arts
- Unite theory, criticism, and practice in speaking and writing
- Additional goals?

Contribute to a democratic society

Students who obtain an NIU baccalaureate degree will....

- Use critical thought and action
- Demonstrate civic knowledge and engagement
- Follow ethical reasoning and action
- Exhibit vocational readiness
- Additional goals?

Value the interdependence between people and nature

Students who obtain an NIU baccalaureate degree will....

- Know and understand the natural world
- Understand the scientific method
- Demonstrate global awareness and environmental sensitivity
- Appreciate sustainable resources
- Additional goals?

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Advocate for diversity both locally and globally

Students who obtain an NIU baccalaureate degree will...

- Exhibit intercultural knowledge
- Demonstrate multicultural sensitivity
- Understand how societies and cultures develop
- Appreciate cultural heritage, traditions, and ideas that have shaped societies and civilizations
- Additional goals?

Continue learning about the world and themselves

Students who obtain an NIU baccalaureate degree will...

- Use inquiry, critical, and creative thinking skills
- Appreciate the interrelatedness of various disciplines
- Engage big questions
- Develop the foundation and skills for life-long learning
- Demonstrate teamwork and problem solving
- Additional goals?

Create, transfer, and preserve knowledge

Students who obtain an NIU baccalaureate degree will...

- Understand the intellectual processes, perspectives, and methodologies implicit in one's major
- Appreciate creative forms of production
- Additional goals?

Is there anything else you would like to suggest? If so, please share.

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Please rank order (1 = most important, 6 = least important)

- Advocate for diversity both locally and globally
- Continue learning about the world and themselves
- Promote a literate society
- Contribute to a democratic society
- Value the interdependence between people and nature
- Create, transfer, and preserve knowledge

PART TWO

Open-Ended Questions

What do we want NIU students to know?

What do we want them to be able to do?

What kind of individuals do we want them to become?

PART THREE

Respondent Information

To help us better understand the views of specific groups, we ask that you please provide us with some information about yourself. This information will be used for reporting purposes only. If you do not wish to provide this information please disregard this request.

Gender: _____

Age: _____

Race/ethnicity: _____

Educational attainment: _____

Affiliation to NIU

- Student
- Faculty
- Staff
- Administrator
- Employer
- Community college
- Other: _____