

**BLUEFIELD STATE COLLEGE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

POLICY NO. AC-201

ACADEMIC OBJECTIVES

1.0 IN GENERAL

1.1 Student Preparation. Bluefield State College (“the College”) shall prepare its students for real world success by assuring that each graduate:

1.1.1 is competent in their chosen field of study;

1.1.2 has the workplace skills necessary to succeed in the economic marketplace;

1.1.3 is capable of participating as a knowledgeable member of American civil society; and

1.1.4 possesses a solid ethical foundation.

1.2 Roles and Responsibilities. The roles and responsibilities for achieving these objectives are as follows:

1.2.1 Consistent with state law, it is the Board’s role to set forth these academic objectives and hold the College responsible for achieving such objectives:

1.2.2 It is the role and responsibility of the academy to design and implement the course curriculum necessary to achieve the objectives set forth in Section 1.1.

1.2.3 It is the President’s role and responsibility to assure that the necessary courses, faculty and methods of assessment will be created and implemented in order to achieve the academic objectives set forth in Section 1.1 of this policy.

1.3 Accountability. The President is directed to provide a report to the Board of Governors detailing the college’s progress in achieving these objectives. For the purposes of this paragraph, the President shall report real results that relate to acquiring knowledge and skills and not traditional academic seat-time measures of compliance such as graduation rates, retention rates, progress towards graduation, number of hours or other time-related assessments.

1.4 Minimum Requirements. The objectives set forth in Section 1.1 are the minimum objectives to be achieved in order to prepare our graduates for real world success. As such, it is within the role of the Academy to establish additional objectives that it believes will further prepare our graduates for real world success.

2.0 FIELD OF STUDY

- 2.1 **Competent defined.** A graduate shall be considered “competent in their chosen field of study” when he or she has mastered the content or the relevant body of knowledge required and possesses the skill necessary to apply such knowledge in a vocational environment so as produce a desired set of results.
- 2.2 **Curriculum.** The curriculum for each field of study must be rigorous, current and require student performance appropriate for the credential awarded.
- 2.3 **Accountability.** The College shall maintain a method to assess and demonstrate the competence of its graduates in their chosen field of study based upon external objective measures approved by the Board of Governors.
 - 2.3.1 “External objective measures” must measure results and may include, but are not limited to, job placement, major field tests, graduate admissions, licensure acquisition, comprehensive examination or other such data or information.
 - 2.3.2 “External objective measures” may not include measures of process such as graduation rates, retention rates, number of graduates, credit hours completed or other such measurement that is based upon internally assigned values.

3.0 WORKPLACE SKILLS

- 3.1 **Defined.** “Workplace skills” include, but may not be limited to, critical thinking, creative thinking, problem solving, verbal communication, written communication, teamwork, leadership, intellectual rigor and discipline.
- 3.2 **Curriculum.** The College shall provide a curriculum in which all students shall obtain the workplace skills necessary to enable them to compete in a dynamic economic marketplace.
- 3.3 **Accountability.** The College shall maintain a portfolio for each student that will demonstrate upon graduation that such student possesses the workplace skills necessary to compete in a dynamic economic marketplace.

4.0 KNOWLEDGEABLE MEMBER OF AMERICAN SOCIETY

- 4.1 **Defined.** For the purposes of this policy, “a knowledgeable member of American society” means knowing and understanding:
 - 4.1.1 The political, economic, philosophical and societal foundations for our country including the history of the United States and western civilization, in general;

- 4.1.2 The philosophical foundation, development and application of the American Constitution, Declaration of Independence and other founding documents to the operation of the American system of government;
- 4.1.3 The fundamentals of entrepreneurship and the free market economic system and a comparison to other major economic systems; and
- 4.1.4 West Virginia history that includes the development of the African-American community and the role of historically black colleges and universities in advancing African-Americans politically, economically and societally.

4.2 Curriculum. The College shall provide a curriculum in which all students shall obtain the broad base of knowledge necessary to participate as a knowledgeable member of society.

4.3 Accountability. The College shall maintain a portfolio for each student that will demonstrate upon graduation that such student has the broad base of knowledge necessary to participate as a knowledgeable member of society.

5.0 CORE COMPETENCIES. The core curriculum shall prepare each graduate to be competent in the following areas:

5.1.1 **Associate's Degree.** All students receiving an associate's degree shall be required to be competent in in the following areas:

- 5.1.1.1 Western civilization and history to 1600 and American history
- 5.1.1.2 The U.S. Constitution and American system of government
- 5.1.1.3 Political economy focused on free market economics
- 5.1.1.4 Written and oral communications
- 5.1.1.5 Mathematics
- 5.1.1.6 Ethics in the student's field of study
- 5.1.1.7 General Science

5.1.2 **Bachelor's Degree.** In addition to the competencies required in Section 5.2.1, students receiving a bachelor's degree shall also be competent in the following areas:

- 5.1.2.1 Western history to 1600 and American history
- 5.1.2.2 The U.S. Constitution and American system of government
- 5.1.2.3 Political economy focused on free market economics
- 5.1.2.4 Written and oral communications
- 5.1.2.5 Critical and creative thinking
- 5.1.2.6 Physical wellness
- 5.1.2.7 Mathematics
- 5.1.2.8 Ethics in the student's field of study
- 5.1.2.9 General Science
- 5.1.2.10 Appreciation of music, art and/or theater

5.1.2.11 History of the student's field of study

5.1.3 **Honors Students.** In addition to the competencies required in Section 5.2.2, students receiving a bachelor's degree and enrolled in the Honors College shall also be required to complete a senior capstone project and be competent in the following areas:

5.1.3.1 The Western philosophical tradition

5.1.3.2 World theologies with a focus on the Western theological tradition

5.1.3.3 Great books in the Western tradition

5.1.3.4 Speech and debate

5.2 Accountability. The College shall demonstrate that upon graduation that all students are competent in each area of the core curriculum. The College shall maintain a method to assess and demonstrate the competence of its graduates in the areas within the core curriculum based upon objective measures approved by the Board of Governors.

5.3 Competent defined. A graduate shall be considered "competent" in all areas of the core curriculum when he or she has mastered the content or the relevant body of knowledge required and possesses the skill necessary to apply such knowledge in a vocational environment so as produce a desired set of results.

6.0 COMMUNITY SERVICE

6.1 Required service. The College shall require each graduate receiving an associate's or bachelor's degree to have performed a level of community service as approved by the College.

6.2 Defined. For the purposes of this section, community service is defined as voluntary work performed by a student that benefits others in the community either individually or through organizations that support children, senior citizens, people with disabilities, animals, local parks, the arts, historic building preservation or other charities including faith-based organizations.

7.0 INTERNATIONAL CULTURES

7.1 Opportunities Required. The College shall require each student receiving a bachelor's degree to have received an introduction to one or more international cultures through an appropriate curricular, co-curricular or extracurricular opportunity.

7.2 Accountability. The College shall maintain a portfolio for each student that will demonstrate upon graduation that such student has received an introduction to one

or more international cultures through an appropriate curricular, co-curricular or extracurricular opportunity.