

FDU's Academic Mission & University Core Program

Core Concepts for Citizenship and Success

FDU Academic Mission (2000)

“Fairleigh Dickinson University is a center of academic excellence dedicated to the **preparation of world citizens** through global education. The University strives to provide students with the multidisciplinary, intercultural and ethical understandings necessary to **participate, lead and prosper in the global marketplace of ideas, commerce and culture.**”

FDU Institutional Goals (2008)

- INSTITUTIONAL GOAL #1: To prepare students for professional success in the global marketplace
- INSTITUTIONAL GOAL #2: To prepare students for responsible membership in the global community

Four University Core Courses



Transitioning to College Life

- What is it?
 - 1-credit course taken by all first-year students at FDU
 - Introduces students to FDU mission, opportunities, support services, etc.
 - Helps students adjust to the rigors of university-level academics
 - Helps students cope with life challenges that can interfere with achievement
- Why do I need it?
 - It's about survival and success - 4 out of 10 college students don't finish their degrees (finish strong by starting strong)

Preparing for Professional Life

- What is it?
 - 1-credit course taken by all first-year students at FDU
 - Promotes professional planning, professional skills, self-awareness, self-development
 - Helps students transition from classroom learning to experiential learning (e.g., internships, study abroad)
 - Helps students transition from academic life to professional life
- Why do I need it?
 - It's about survival and success - determine what success means to you, make a personal plan for getting there (review, revise, repeat)

Cross-Cultural Perspectives

- What is it?
 - 3-credit course taken by most second-year students at FDU
 - Helps students describe and analyze cultural phenomena in their own lives and grapple with cultural differences
 - Helps students understand ways in which cultures change and how cultures shape and are shaped by individuals
 - Helps students recognize how misunderstandings and conflicts arise within and between cultures
- Why do I need it?
 - It's about citizenship and success - FDU grads should be prepared for responsible and effective engagement in any diverse community (e.g., school, neighborhood, organization, workplace)

Global Issues

- What is it?
 - 3-credit course taken by most second-year and some third-year students at FDU
 - Helps students develop essential aspects of critical thinking and apply those skills to complex global systems
 - Helps students better understand contemporary global challenges, such as climate change, economic crises, health pandemics, political extremism, etc.
 - Helps students understand how choices made by individuals are inextricably connected with global systems
- Why do I need it?
 - It's about citizenship and success - FDU grads should be able to locate themselves within a broader global context and act in informed ways, both individually and with others

Core Concepts for Citizenship and Success

Academic and Professional Self-Awareness

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graph TD; A[Academic and Professional Self-Awareness] --> B[Academic and Professional Self-Development]; B --> C[Cross-Cultural Understanding]; C --> D[Knowledge of Global Issues];
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Academic and Professional Self-Development

Cross-Cultural Understanding

Knowledge of Global Issues

Academic and Professional Self-Awareness

Students will demonstrate a broadening sense of self-awareness in academic, social and professional contexts, demonstrating awareness of personal strengths and areas needing improvement, monitoring one's internal states and behavior, recognizing the effect of one's behavior on others, recognizing the importance of self-care, balancing competing priorities and seeking support when needed.

Academic and Professional Self-Development

Students will demonstrate a broadening capacity for active (self-directed) learning, developing plans for further personal, academic and professional growth, identifying and pursuing opportunities for learning and self-improvement, changing behaviors based on feedback and mentoring and reflecting upon one's learning in both formal and informal contexts.

Cross-Cultural Understanding

An FDU graduate will demonstrate the ability to understand and appreciate multiple cultures and global issues from historical, ethical and moral perspectives. They will strive to be

- Curious about and tolerant toward people from different backgrounds.
- Open and adaptive to working effectively with people from different backgrounds.

Knowledge of Global Issues

An FDU graduate will demonstrate the ability to analyze important current global issues from multiple viewpoints. They will recognize how major global developments impact:

- Their personal and professional lives (and seek to generate creative and effective responses to those developments).
- The lives of people around the world (and seek equity in the benefits and responsibilities of those developments).

FDU University Core Program

<http://www.fdu.edu/core>

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