

College-Wide Graduate Educational Objectives

Messiah College is dedicated to helping students blend faith with learning in service to the world. Messiah College advocates a bold and disciplined exploration of the world and expects its students to both embrace and participate in that endeavor. At the same time, Messiah seeks to instill in its students a sense of intellectual humility, recognizing that even the most learned persons have limited insight and therefore need the insights of others.

The paradigm under which Messiah College's educational programs are designed is that of liberal education. By raising the right questions, exposing students to multiple perspectives, and encouraging critical thinking, Messiah College seeks to enable its students to respond with maturity to the world's complexities. In addition to nurturing these intellectual skills, the College encourages its students to apply their knowledge to the needs of the world – as servants, as leaders, as agents of reconciliation.

Messiah College has a historic relationship with the Brethren in Christ Church. Now expressed in a covenant agreement, this heritage informs the College's programs and activities. The distinctives of this heritage, which is rooted in the Anabaptist, Pietist, and Wesleyan traditions of the Christian faith, include emphases on justice-seeking, peacemaking, reconciliation, evangelism, and service. Accordingly, the College encourages and prepares students to act as servants who extend the gifts of grace and peace to a broken world.

While we realize that learning is a lifelong endeavor, Messiah College expects students completing graduate degrees have made progress toward the fulfillment of the following educational objectives.

1. Understanding the foundational content and philosophical assumptions of one's specialized area of graduate study;

2. Engaging in scholarship in one's specialized area of graduate study;

- a. Students demonstrate knowledge of and competence in basic methods, data analysis, research design commonly used in the field, or creative production or performance;
- b. Students demonstrate competence in the critical review and evaluation of research literature or creative activities;
- c. Students demonstrate the ability to conduct an independent research project or to prepare an exhibition;
- d. Students demonstrate practical experience in presenting creative work, research findings, and other scholarship in contexts such as exhibitions, performances, professional conferences, peer-reviewed journals, and other scholarly outlets.

3. Developing proficiency in one's specialized area of study sufficient to prepare students to enter professions, advance within one's profession, or to continue study for a

terminal degree;

- a. To facilitate students' professional identity development and foster strong commitment to ethical practice;
- b. To encourage students' commitment to lifelong learning and ongoing personal and professional development;
- c. To encourage students' development of skills to engage in continuing scholarly inquiry, knowledge building, and the dissemination of knowledge across the course of their professional careers.

4. Articulating how Christian faith connects to each specialized area of study and to potential career or service options in that area of study; and

- a. To encourage students to explore the relevance of Christian convictions to contemporary issues and concerns;
- b. To encourage students to apply the insights of Christian theology and ethics to complex social and personal issues;
- c. To encourage students to develop a sense of civic responsibility and commitment to work with others for the common good;
- d. To encourage students to make decisions that reflect an ethic of service, a concern for justice, and a desire for reconciliation.

5. Each graduate program will develop program-specific learning outcomes beyond those required of all graduate programs.