

GC JOURNEYS



As a community, we asked ourselves about the bottom line – what attributes would we like our graduates to possess?

WE DETERMINED GEORGIA COLLEGE GRADUATES SHOULD BE:

- curious, critical, and creative problem-solvers
- ethical, reflective, and engaged citizens
- skilled communicators
- service-oriented leaders and professionals who are dedicated to excellence

OUR HOPE IS THAT:

- Graduates will possess these attributes at a significant level.
- Graduates will be truly transformed by their time with us.
- Georgia College will be recognized as a preeminent institution with a distinctive liberal arts curriculum.

GC JOURNEYS IS:

- ▶ Five or more Transformative Experiences (aka “High-Impact Practices”) for every student with an emphasis on inclusive excellence.

The Transformative Experiences built into the curriculum are:

- The First-Year Experience (FYE)
- Career Planning Milestones
- A Capstone Course in the major

The Transformative Experiences students can choose from to personalize their journey are:

- Study Abroad/Away
- Community-based Engaged Learning
- Intensive Leadership Experiences
- Mentored Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors
- Internships, Field and Clinical-based Practica, and Apprenticeships

- ▶ The explicit teaching of at least one essential skill (aka AAC&U’s “Essential Learning Outcomes”) in every course to develop consummate thinkers. Examples of such skills include analysis, creative thinking, information literacy, and intercultural competence.
- ▶ The incorporation of targeted, highly effective interventions such as developing academic mindset. This aspect of the program will include interventions related to teaching, learning, and student perceptions of themselves and their work.



IN SUPPORT OF THESE THREE COMPONENTS WE WILL:

- ▶ Gather meaningful and interesting data that we are all actually interested in examining and that allows us a) to ensure what we are doing is working and also b) to consistently improve.
- ▶ Empower the “Liberal Arts Council” (LAC) to ensure this initiative remains a valuable part of our curriculum as key personnel come and go. Other roles of the LAC would be a) to ensure that Journeys-related work is highly valued in annual review as well as promotion and tenure, and b) to ensure that curricular initiatives that are working well continue to be improved and supported while ensuring that the university isn’t overrun by initiative after initiative resulting in the dreaded “initiative fatigue.”

WHY DO THIS?

- ▶ Because it is what is necessary to graduate agile thinkers who are truly prepared for whatever life has in store.
- ▶ Because it is likely to help us attract and retain the highest quality students and faculty.
- ▶ Because the research tells us that taking a broad range of quality courses doesn’t necessarily result in consummate thinkers, but we believe that the explicit and deliberate teaching of key thinking skills will finally allow us to graduate individuals who possess the attributes we recognize as essential in a rapidly changing, global community.