UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

Undergraduate Curriculum Philosophy

The Davenport University curriculum is profession-focused, dynamic and outcomes-based; it anticipates market demand, is grounded in the liberal arts and sciences and enhanced by the Excellence System.

Curriculum Principles

1. Profession-Focused Curriculum
   - The curriculum will focus on professional offerings relevant to existing colleges.
   - The curriculum will be structured such that the program’s foundational courses and introductory major courses are accessible to students early in their academic career.
   - The curriculum will have extensive breadth and depth in the majors, in many cases with opportunity to earn specialized credentials or certifications.
   - The curriculum will include systematically embedded, discipline-focused experiential learning.
   - The curriculum will provide opportunity for interdisciplinary degree completion supporting professional advancement.

2. Dynamic and Market-Driven Curriculum
   - Emerging market-demand, research, and internal assessment data will drive all curriculum development and change. DU will be responsive to external stakeholders who influence curricula such as accrediting and advisory bodies, employers, and disciplinary communities.
   - DU will actively consider specialized accreditations and designations when they are congruent with its mission and are advantageous to students.
   - Degree programs should allow the opportunity for elective credits.
   - The credit hours required in DU degrees must meet the required State minimum credit hours for each degree; however, credits may exceed the minimum when such provide a competitive advantage for students.

3. Outcomes-Based Curriculum
   - The curriculum will be built upon program purpose and learning outcomes at all levels—University, degree, program, and course.
   - The curriculum will undergo continual assessment and periodic review to ensure learning outcomes are met and student retention is maximized. The curriculum will be structured to introduce, to reinforce and to ensure mastery of the competencies associated with program learning outcomes and Davenport University Excellence System outcomes.

4. Liberal Arts and Sciences Educational Foundation
• The liberal arts and sciences curriculum will be built to provide competencies needed for graduates to be well-rounded citizens and professionals.
• The liberal arts and sciences educational component of every degree will provide the foundation for success in all majors and ensure the achievement of degree and University-level outcomes.
• The required liberal arts and sciences educational component will be intentionally chosen to provide knowledge and skills, as well as teach values needed for academic and professional excellence.
• Courses considered liberal arts and sciences will have general education prefixes whenever possible.
• The general education course requirements will exceed the state of Michigan’s minimum and meet or exceed the general education requirements of external accrediting bodies and professional associations.
• The curriculum will emphasize diversity.

5. **Davenport University Excellence System**

The mission of Davenport University is to “prepare(s) individuals and organizations to excel in the knowledge-driven environment of the 21st century.” To that end, the data-driven assessed Davenport University Excellence System was created. The Excellence System consists of nine soft skill competencies with measured student learning outcomes. These outcomes prepare graduates to demonstrate professional competencies necessary to succeed in their chosen profession and provides an opportunity for students to be certified in these skills.

• The curriculum will be interwoven with the elements of the DU Excellence System:
  o Global and Intercultural Competence
  o Civic and Social Responsibility
  o Ethical Reasoning and Action
  o Critical and Creative Thinking
  o Analysis and Problem Solving
  o Leadership and Teamwork
  o Information and Technology Proficiency
  o Written Communication
  o Professional Communication