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1. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this section is to define the educational philosophy of curriculum programs at WCC.

2. PROCEDURE

To fulfill the mission and goals of the College, each employee should understand and commit to the philosophy of an open door, comprehensive community college. In addition, WCC's educational philosophy is one of commitment to a learning-centered, outcomes-based educational model. A learning-centered college empowers students to take responsibility for their own learning as well as facilitates the achievement of measurable and meaningful learning outcomes. An important step in the process includes viewing instructors as facilitators who create learning communities. It means continually asking before every decision at every level, "How will this impact, effect, and contribute to student learning?" It means recognizing that all students, faculty, and staff of the College are life-long learners as well as participants and stakeholders in the learning process. It means that we are willing to identify areas of improvement, to apply solutions and proven new techniques, and to transform our practice, on every level, to help maximize student empowerment of learning and achievement.

The College, through input from advisory committees, employers and other community resources, students, faculty and staff, has defined *learning* as the process

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by which behavior is changed as individuals acquire and apply knowledge, attitudes, and skills.

The College has also identified college-wide, program and course level student outcomes for all degrees offered. College-wide student learning and program level student outcomes are published in the *WCC College Catalog*. Course level outcomes are located in the student syllabus for each course. A *Program Outcomes Matrix* and *Legend of Methods for Measurement of Student Learning Outcomes* is completed for each curriculum program and are filed in curriculum departmental offices.

WCC Student Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate speaking, writing and reading skills necessary to communicate
2. Demonstrate mathematical skills necessary to solve problems appropriate to the area of study
3. Use principles of critical thinking to analyze problems and make logical decisions
4. Use computers and other technologies to achieve academic, work-related and personal goals
5. Apply the principles and concepts of the natural and social sciences
6. Use positive interpersonal skills to interact with individuals in diverse groups
7. Recognize the importance of globalization in developing a broadened worldview
8. Explore the fine arts and humanities from cultural and historic perspectives

Assessment of student learning is critical to the learning-centered, outcomes-based educational model. Measuring the student's achievement of college-wide,

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program, and course learning outcomes involves selecting the appropriate methods of assessment. WCC instructors use a variety of methods for collecting quantitative and qualitative evidence of student learning. When instructors place emphasis on assessment of student learning, they are working toward WCC's mission of helping students succeed.