WHAT IS A Curricular Approach OR A RESIDENTIAL CURRICULUM?

A "CURRICULAR APPROACH" IS USED TO DESCRIBE A SPECIFIC MODEL AND MINDSET THAT IS AN INTENTIONAL WAY OF PROMOTING LEARNING IN COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENT AFFAIRS PROGRAMS.

Timeline

FIRST IMPLEMENTED IN THE EARLY 2000S, AND DOCUMENTED IN ABOUT CAMPUS MAGAZINE.

"BEYOND SEAT TIME AND STUDENT SATISFACTION: A CURRICULAR APPROACH TO RESIDENTIAL EDUCATION," 2006 KERR & TWEEDY

"SHIFTING TO CURRICULAR APPROACHES TO LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM," 2017 KERR, TWEEDY, EDWARDS, & KIMMEL

GAVE RISE TO ACPA'S INSTITUTE ON THE CURRICULAR APPROACH STARTING IN 2007.
**THE TEN ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS**

1. Directly Connected to the Institutional Mission

   "Learning goals are tied to institutional educational priorities such as general education, history, mission, and culture."

2. Learning Goals and Outcomes Derived from a Defined Educational Priority

   "The primary educational aims of a unit are focused, interconnected, and clearly articulated."

3. Based on Research and Developmental Theory

   "Educational content and strategies are grounded in student development theory and learning pedagogy."

4. Departmental Learning Outcomes Drive Development of Educational Strategies

   "Educational strategies are determined based on what can best facilitate each student achieving the department learning outcomes."

5. Traditional Programs May Be One Type of Strategy — But Not the Only One

   "Strategies like intentional conversations, community and organizational meetings, service initiatives, social media engagement, and campus events are structured to help achieve the learning outcomes."

6. Student Leaders and Staff Members Play Key Roles in Implementation but Are Not Expected to Be Educational Experts

   "Student leaders and staff members are considered to be facilitators rather than designers of educational strategies."

7. Represents Developmentally Sequenced Learning

   "Educational content and strategies build upon one another for a coherent plan both across the academic year and the full college career."

8. Campus Partners Are Identified and Integrated into Plans

   "Multiple units with intersecting goals work together to develop educational strategies that complement the student experience and advance the institution's mission."

9. Plan Is Developed Through a Review Process

   "A regular review process (internal and/or external) is developed to get feedback from key partners and experts on content and pedagogy."

10. Cycle of Assessment for Student Learning and Educational Strategies

    "Assessment is focused on student attainment of learning outcomes and the effectiveness of strategies in a cycle of continuous improvement."

*(Kerr, Tweedy, Edwards, & Kimmel, 2017, p. 25)*
Before beginning your curriculum, it is important to conduct an audit, or archeological dig, to surface important characteristics and concepts that should be present and accounted for in your curriculum.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INSTITUTIONAL DOCUMENTS</th>
<th>Ex. Mission, values, Gen Ed requirements, strategic plans, etc.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STUDENT LEARNING RESEARCH</td>
<td>Ex. Learning Reconsidered I &amp; 2, Student Development theory, competencies from Lumina, AACEU, CAS, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INSTITUTIONAL CULTURE AND ASSESSMENT</td>
<td>Ex. Surveys, Admissions materials, popular majors, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS AND DATA</td>
<td>Ex. Demographics, NSSE and CIRP, Student Focus Groups</td>
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Educational plans are designed as a cascade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Priority</th>
<th>Learning Goals</th>
<th>Learning Goals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Narrative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learning Outcomes</td>
<td></td>
<td>Learning Outcomes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strategies</td>
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<td>Strategy Learning Outcomes</td>
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<td>Facilitation Guide</td>
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writing an educational priority

What is an educational priority?

An overarching statement of what students will learn as a result of their participation in a curriculum.

Mission statement
Is about the department.

Educational priority
Is about the students.

Your educational priority

Learning goals

Broad areas of focus that contribute to the achievement of the educational priority.

tips

Typically 3-5 goals for a department (but a divisional curriculum can include more)

Example

Students will develop leadership skills that allow them to set and achieve organizational goals and collaborate and communicate with diverse others.
**Narrative**

Each goal has a narrative - paragraph descriptions of a learning goal that provide further depth and meaning and the philosophies and theories that inform it.

Civic engagement is an important goal of higher education in the United States to develop an informed citizenry that actively engages in their communities and democratic government. Furthermore, the nature of work requires that individuals participate in collaborative environments to make change and succeed in achieving goals. Our notion of civic engagement is built off the social change model of leadership recognizing that leadership is process-oriented rather than positionally related. As such, civic engagement involves service to others and is rooted in an understanding of self and one’s position in the world and social systems relative to others.

**Writing Outcomes**

Specific concrete outcomes that specify what is necessary for achievement of the learning goal.

Tips

Typically 4-6 outcomes for a department (but a divisional curriculum can include more).

Example

Students will articulate a personal leadership philosophy.
**Writing Rubrics**

A visual method of representing the successive stages of learning and mastery of each of the learning goal outcomes.

**Example**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start</th>
<th>Student is unable to articulate a personal leadership philosophy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moving In</td>
<td>Student can name and describe a number of different leadership philosophies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moving Through</td>
<td>Student can identify a leadership philosophy or philosophies that guide their involvement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moving Out</td>
<td>Student can articulate a personal leadership philosophy and how they put it into action.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO...**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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strategies

THE VARIOUS VEHICLES OR METHODS FOR DELIVERING STUDENT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES.

☐ INTENTIONAL CONVERSATIONS
☐ PEER MENTOR PROGRAMS
☐ STUDENT LEADERSHIP
☐ STUDENT CONDUCT MEETINGS
☐ MICRO-COURSES
☐ COMMUNITY MEETING
☐ CAMPUS EVENTS
☐ BULLETIN BOARDS
☐ WORKSHOPS
☐ SOCIAL MEDIA

WHAT STRATEGIES DO YOU HAVE?

THESE SHOULD MOVE BEYOND PROGRAMS AND ENCOMPASS ALL THE WAYS YOU INTERACT WITH STUDENTS.
**Facilitation Guides**

Facilitation guides actualize your strategies. You can think of them as lesson plans for each interaction.

Facilitation guides can vary, but most include some of the following main components:

- Title
- Strategy Type
- Target Audience
- Relevant Learning Goals & Outcomes
- Specific Lesson Outcomes
- Purpose
- Planning & Preparation
- Facilitator Guide
- Assessment

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### Sequencing

Once you know your learning objectives and your strategies, begin to sequence them so that each opportunity builds on prior knowledge and skill, just like a syllabus. You can sequence within the academic year and across class years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>STRATEGY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Welcoming Weekend</td>
<td>Reslife Floor Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Peer Health Educator</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Student Org Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Career Interests Fair</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Academic Advising Starts</td>
<td>Internship Fair</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assessment

Assessment in a curriculum should focus on learning.

"Do you feel like you know the policies?"

Ask: "What is the policy on X?"

Division

Curriculum Goal 1
  Outcome 1-1
  Outcome 1-2
  Outcome 1-3
  Outcome 1-4

Curriculum Goal 2
  Outcome 2-1
  Outcome 2-2
  Outcome 2-3
  Outcome 2-4

Department

Curriculum Goal 1
  Outcome 1-1
  Outcome 1-2
  Outcome 1-3
  Outcome 1-4

Curriculum Goal 2
  Outcome 2-1
  Outcome 2-2
  Outcome 2-3
  Outcome 2-4

Each facilitation guide should include these assessments. You should also think about broader institutional assessments that may map on to your curricular outcomes.

NSSE

Curriculum Goal 1
  Outcome 1-1
  Outcome 1-2
  Outcome 1-3
  Outcome 1-4

Curriculum Goal 2
  Outcome 2-1
  Outcome 2-2
  Outcome 2-3
  Outcome 2-4

SKYFACTOR
CURRICULAR PLANS SHOULD BE REVIEWED BY MULTIPLE ADVISORS, STAKEHOLDERS, AND NEUTRAL PARTNERS—BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE OF THE ORGANIZATION. THROUGH A REVIEW PROCESS, CURRICULA CAN BE IMPROVED. REVIEWS SHOULD OCCUR ON AN ANNUAL, SEMI-ANNUAL, OR ONGOING BASIS AND SHOULD INFORM THE OVERALL EVOLUTION OF THE CURRICULUM.

BRAINSTORM

THINK THROUGH YOUR LOGISTICS:
- WHAT SOURCES OF FEEDBACK WILL YOU USE?
- HOW WILL YOU ORGANIZE YOUR TIME?
- WHAT IS THE SCOPE OF YOUR REVIEW? FULL? PARTIAL?
- IDENTIFY EXPERTS, PARTNERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS THAT CAN HELP IN THE REVIEW.

PLANNING

LAUNCHING A CURRICULUM REQUIRES PRE-PLANNING. FIRST, THINK OF HOW YOU MIGHT DIVIDE THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT OVER MULTIPLE YEARS. DO CERTAIN ASPECTS NEED TO BE WORKED ON PRIOR TO OTHER ASPECTS? WHAT IS A REASONABLE TIME FRAME GIVEN THE REALITIES OF STAFF TIME?

YEAR 1

YEAR 2

YEAR 3
**Setting Aside Time**

How will you ensure you make progress on your curricular development? Weekly/monthly workshop meetings? Retreats?

**Organizational Opportunity & Barriers**

What opportunities and barriers exist to your success? Can these be leveraged or changed? These can include: partners, supervisors, the physical environment, etc.

**Cultural Change**

What aspects of culture would you like to change to make your organization more learning-centric and to equip your staff with the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities?
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OUR CONSULTATION AND SERVICES PROVIDE TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS ON CURRICULAR APPROACHES TO EDUCATION OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM—INCLUDING RESIDENCE LIFE DEPARTMENTS AND STUDENT AFFAIRS DIVISIONS. WE ALSO PROVIDE EXTERNAL REVIEW SERVICES.