

*NCA Self Study*  
*Criterion 3 Documents*

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Eastern Illinois University

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Student Development Goal and Objective

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This paper is posted at The Keep.  
[http://thekeep.eiu.edu/eiunca\\_teachinglearning\\_docs/18](http://thekeep.eiu.edu/eiunca_teachinglearning_docs/18)



**Eastern Illinois University's mission statement:** Eastern Illinois University is a public comprehensive university that offers superior, accessible undergraduate and graduate education. Students learn the methods and results of free and rigorous inquiry in the arts, humanities, sciences, and professions, guided by a faculty known for its excellence in teaching, research, creative activity, and service. The University community is committed to diversity and inclusion and fosters opportunities for student-faculty scholarship and applied learning experiences within a student-centered campus culture. Throughout their education, students refine their abilities to reason and to communicate clearly so as to become responsible citizens and leaders.<sup>1</sup>

The above mission statement is the driving force behind everything Eastern does to prepare its students academically, socially, culturally, and personally. In order to clarify the outcomes we seek to see from our students the following goals and objectives have been crafted to communicate to students, their families, faculty, staff, and the people of Illinois, what we seek to bring forth and nurture in our students both in and out of the classroom. The following goals and objectives for students outline our idea of a successful Eastern Illinois University graduate and offer ideas for families to partner with the University to achieve this end.

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**Student Development Goal:** To foster student learning and development by supporting students in their academic, personal, and social growth.

**Student Objectives:** As they negotiate their transition to college and throughout their college experience, Eastern Illinois University students will strive to meet the following outcomes.

**Responsibility and Accountability**

- Take responsibility for their own learning
- Meet academic and behavioral expectations and commitments set forth by the University
- Make appropriate decisions regarding behavior
- Recognize and accept consequences of their actions
- Appropriately determine when to act alone and when to work or consult with others

**Establishment of Academic and Personal Goals**

- Demonstrate effective planning, time management, and purposeful behavior
- Initiate action and effectively engage others to enhance outcomes
- Maintain sufficient motivation and energy to achieve goals
- Employ talents and skills to contribute to the betterment of society

**Awareness of Self**

- Maintain positive outlook
- Expect the best from self and others
- Accurately assess and articulate personal strengths and weaknesses
- Accept constructive criticism and actively seek self-improvement
- Learn and recover from disappointment or bad experience and continue to succeed
- Recognize advantages of moving outside existing “comfort zone”

**Appreciation of Differences**

- Appreciate the importance of diversity and conveys this value to others
- Understand and respects the values and beliefs of others
- Seek out others with different backgrounds and/or perspectives to enhance knowledge and personal growth
- Work effectively with others, despite differences; can respectfully discuss differences with others
- Demonstrate ability to help others adapt to new situations

**Tolerance of Ambiguity**

- Demonstrate intellectual and emotional ability to perform in complicated environments
- Can function under conditions of uncertainty

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<sup>1</sup>Each academic program and service unit at Eastern has also established goals and objectives that support and contribute to this mission statement. Most of the academic objectives are available at [www.eiu.edu/~assess](http://www.eiu.edu/~assess) under each college and department.

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**Family Objectives:** Throughout a student's college experience, parents and other family members may contribute to his/her student's success by:

- Learning about the unique challenges and opportunities facing today's college students, including the academic and non-academic expectations for students at the college level
- Understanding what student support services are available to the students and encouraging students to seek support and assistance independently
- Supporting Eastern Illinois University's goals for student growth and development during the college years
  - Encourage student to set and achieve personal goals and make responsible decisions related to academics, career planning, social interactions, and community engagement
  - Understand and support the University's commitment to academic excellence and integrity, ethical behavior, diversity, and civility
  - Empower student to examine personal values; encourage student to learn about and respect the values and beliefs of others
  - Challenge student to seek new experiences for personal and professional growth
  - Support student as she/he faces conditions of uncertainty and learns to perform in complicated environments and challenging situations
  - Allow student to accept consequences of her/his actions and accept responsibility for personal errors; urge student to examine disappointments and unexpected experiences in order to assess what caused them, what can be done about them, and how to avoid them in the future
- Knowing when to step in to help their student and when to empower their student to take responsibility
  - Understand the role parents play as mentors to their student
  - Know and understand limitations to access of student records as delineated by federal requirements outlined in FERPA and HIPPA
  - Promote self-advocacy by encouraging student to identify problems and work toward solutions independently
  - Be alert to signs that the student is under significant stress, is taking unhealthy risks, or is ill; discuss concerns openly with student and assist student in developing a plan to address the problem
  - Contact appropriate campus or community authorities if a student's physical or mental health is endangered
- Developing an affinity for Eastern Illinois University
  - Understand that parents are part of the University community as prime supporters of their students
  - Participate in campus events; support and encourage all students as they learn, perform, lead, or serve through campus and community activities
  - Assist other parents in understanding the student experience
  - Promote goodwill on behalf of higher education at the state and federal level