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An Integrated Approach to Competency-Based Learning & Assessment: Two Models at the School for New Learning, DePaul University

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**AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO
COMPETENCY-BASED
LEARNING & ASSESSMENT:
TWO MODELS AT THE SCHOOL FOR NEW LEARNING
DEPAUL UNIVERSITY**



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**LIVE TEXT 2015 ASSESSMENT & COLLABORATION
CONFERENCE JULY 2015**

TENETS



- **THE STUDENT & HER/HIS NEEDS ARE 1ST**
- **THE INSTITUTION & ITS CONVENIENCE ARE 2ND**
- **CHOICES VS PRESCRIPTION**
- **COMPETENCE & PERFORMANCE VS
TIME, SPACE, COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

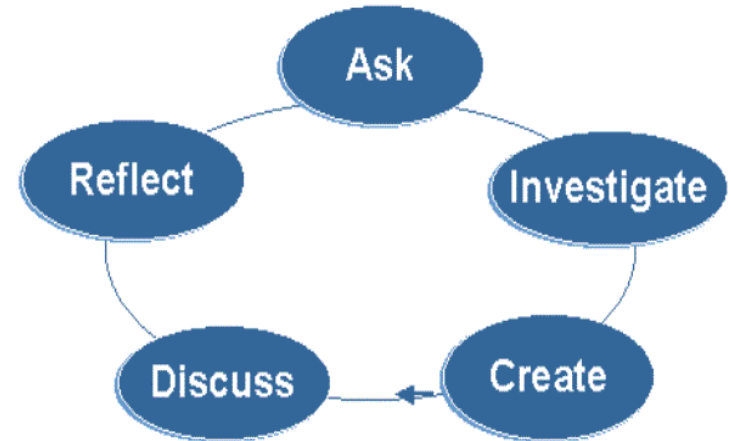
SOURCE



THE COMMISSION ON NON-TRADITIONAL STUDY
SAMUEL GOULD (1973) DIVERSITY BY DESIGN

PHILOSOPHICAL TRADITIONS

- **LIBERAL**
ACTIVE INQUIRY
PERSPECTIVE SHIFTS
- **PROGRESSIVE**
REFLECTION ON EXPERIENCE
- **HUMANISTIC**
CUSTOMIZED
CARING RELATIONSHIPS



SNL BA COMPETENCIES

BAIFA competence grid


Lifelong Learning Area (12 Competencies)	Liberal Learning and Elective Area (26 Competencies)			Focus Area (12 Competencies)
L1 Independent Learning Seminar	A1- Interpreting the Arts	H1- Communities and Societies	S1- Experiencing Science	F1 Focus Planning
L2 Foundations of Adult Learning	A2- Creative Expression	H2- Institutions and Organizations	S2- Patterns and Processes	F2 Focus Area Elective
L3 Civic Engagement	A3- Reflection and Meaning	H3- Individual Development	S3- Science, Technology, and Society	F3 Focus Area Elective
L4 Writing for Competence	A-- Arts and Ideas	H-- The Human Community	S-- The Scientific World	F4 Focus Area Elective
L5 Critical Thinking	A-- Arts and Ideas	H-- The Human Community	S-- The Scientific World	F5 Focus Area Elective
L6 Quantitative Reasoning	A-- Arts and Ideas	H-- The Human Community	S-- The Scientific World	F6 Focus Area Elective
L7 Collaborative Learning	A4 Ethics in the Contemporary World	H4 Power and Justice	S4 Interconnections in the Natural World	F7 Focus Area Elective
L8 Research Seminar	A5 Creativity	H5 Globalization	S5 Information Technology	F8 Focus Area Elective
L9 Research Seminar		E1 Advanced Elective		F9 Focus Area Elective
L10 Externship		E2 Advanced Elective		F10 Focus Area Elective
L11 Externship				F11 Advanced Project
L12 Summit Seminar				F12 Advanced Project

BAIFA 50 COMPETENCES GUIDE...

- LEARNERS
- MENTORS & ADVISORS
- ACADEMIC COMMITTEE
- INSTRUCTORS
- ASSESSORS
- GRADUATION AUDITORS



INTEGRATIVE FEATURES

- 
- **1 FRAMEWORK**
 - **50 COMPETENCES**
 - **2,300 CURRICULA**
 - **LIBERAL LEARNING AREAS +**
 - **CAREER FOCUS AREA**
 - **LIFELONG LEARNING**
 - **ISSUE & THEME ORIENTED**
 - **MULTI-DISCIPLINARY**
 - **PLA WELCOME: ANY TIME**
 - **LEARNING SOURCES: ANY WHERE**
 - **INDEPENDENT LEARNING: CONTINUUM**
 - **PRACTICE-THEORY-PRACTICE**
 - **FACULTY AS MENTORS**
 - **ADJUNCTS AS EXPERT PRACTITIONERS**
 - **ASSESSMENT AS PART OF LEARNING**
 - **Formative Feedback**
 - **New Learning**
 - **ASSESSMENT TO AWARD COMPETENCE**

Master of Arts in Applied Professional Studies (MAAPS)



- **13 COMPETENCES OR**
- **9 COMPETENCES & INTEGRATING PROJECT**
- **CUSTOMIZED PROGRAMS WITH CLOSE MENTORING**
- **REQUIRES PRACTICE-APPLICATION SETTING(S)**
- **REQUIRES INDEPENDENT INQUIRY**

PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES (in the Focus Area)

- ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND THE MAIN THEORIES/IDEAS* THAT GUIDE AND EXPLAIN PRACTICE IN ONE'S FOCUS AREA **(COMPETENCE AP-510)**
- ABILITY TO ENGAGE VARIOUS METHODS OF RESEARCH* APPROPRIATE TO ONE'S FOCUS AREA **(COMPETENCE AP-520)**
- ABILITY TO APPLY SPECIALIZED SKILLS* APPROPRIATE TO ONE'S FOCUS AREA **(COMPETENCE AP-530)**
- ABILITY TO ENGAGE COMMUNICATION MODES* APPROPRIATE TO ONE'S FOCUS AREA **(COMPETENCE AP-540)**

CONTINUED...

- ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND THE ORGANIZATIONAL & INTERPERSONAL DYNAMICS* WITHIN WHICH PRACTITIONERS IN ONE'S FOCUS AREA DEFINE AND FULFILL THEIR ROLES/ RESPONSIBILITIES **(COMPETENCE AP-550)**
- ABILITY TO INTERPRET CHALLENGES FROM LARGER CONTEXTS* (E.G., TEMPORAL, SOCIAL, OR INTERNATIONAL) FACING ONE'S FOCUS AREA **(COMPETENCE AP-560)**
- ABILITY TO ANALYZE ETHICAL ISSUES* INVOLVED WITHIN ONE'S FOCUS AREA **(COMPETENCE AP-570)**
- ABILITY TO ENGAGE REFLECTION IN/ON PRACTICE* WITHIN ONE'S FOCUS AREA **(COMPETENCE AP-574)**
- A SUPPLEMENTAL OPPORTUNITY TO FURTHER DEVELOP ABILITY IN ONE OF THE PREVIOUS AREAS **(COMPETENCE AP-585)**

Professional Competence

AP-510



ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND THE MAIN THEORIES/IDEAS GUIDING AND EXPLAINING FOCUS AREA PRACTICE.

“CAN DESCRIBE AND ANALYZE AT LEAST TWO SIGNIFICANT IDEAS (E.G., THEORIES, MODELS, PRINCIPLES, CONCEPTS) RELEVANT TO THE FOCUS AREA OR RELATED FIELDS AND EXPLAIN THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE.”

Professional Competence

AP-560



ABILITY TO INTERPRET CHALLENGES FROM LARGER CONTEXTS FACING THE FOCUS AREA.

“CAN DESCRIBE AND ANALYZE A CHALLENGE (OR SET OF CHALLENGES) FROM THE LARGER CONTEXT IMPACTING THE FOCUS AREA AND EXPLAIN ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE.”

Professional Competence

AP-574



**ABILITY TO ENGAGE REFLECTION ON/IN PRACTICE
IN THE FOCUS AREA.**

*“CAN DESCRIBE AND ANALYZE AN APPROACH TO
REFLECTION AND APPLY SUCH TO A PARTICULAR
PERSONAL SITUATION INVOLVING ONE’S
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE IN THE FOCUS AREA.”*