

The Zayed University Academic Program Model

Zayed University takes seriously its charge to become the leading university in the region, and is committed to preparing educated citizens who are fully prepared to become leaders in their community, country and world. Over the course of its growth as an institution, the University has developed undergraduate and graduate academic degree programs, as well as research and outreach activities which serve its students and the United Arab Emirates.

The rapid pace of technology-driven change throughout the world makes innovation, adaptability and accountability essential qualities for productive and satisfying futures. In order to succeed in an increasingly competitive global society, students must possess the knowledge and skills required to continue learning throughout their lives.

To prepare undergraduate students for a rapidly changing and unpredictable future, Zayed University has created an outcomes-based Academic Program Model. A major objective of the undergraduate experience at Zayed University is the development of the skills necessary for continuous lifelong learning. The Academic Program Model is designed to help achieve this objective by providing students with a foundation and framework for all their university studies. Every Zayed University course focuses on one or more of the six university-specified learning outcomes. The learning outcomes are incorporated into normal course work, and therefore are an integral part of the disciplinary content and evaluation of the course. Threaded throughout the baccalaureate curriculum, the learning outcomes help students to achieve a higher order of intellectual development.

Students enter the baccalaureate degree program through enrollment in the Colloquy on Integrated Learning program. The Colloquy provides an interdisciplinary curricular framework supportive of the University learning outcomes and the development of skills critical to lifelong learning and leadership. The Colloquy on Integrated Learning is taught through a core curriculum which creates an intellectual experience that is shared by all Zayed University undergraduate students. It prepares them for the professional world or for graduate study in their major

field. The Colloquy constitutes 59-62 hours of academic credit, with 14-17 of these included as part of the majors elected by students. Within the majors, the Major Learning Outcomes develop academic and professional competencies necessary to function effectively and independently as a scholar or practitioner in a chosen field.

In achieving these learning outcomes, Zayed University students do more than simply satisfy a set of course requirements. They apply their learning to real-life situations and learn from their experiences. Students develop deep understanding of the academic disciplines and are able to apply the theory and methods of these disciplines to situations in their own lives. Zayed University graduates are fluent in both Arabic and English language, and well prepared for their chosen profession and advanced academic study.

Zayed University graduates can

- take initiative and assume responsibility;
- think independently and critically, and solve problems;
- work well with others as leaders and supporters;
- adapt to change;
- communicate effectively in two languages;
- frame issues in a global perspective;
- apply current technologies; and
- reflect on their experiences, learn and grow.

Zayed University Learning Outcomes (ZULOs)

The faculty at Zayed University (ZU) have identified six learning outcomes they feel are essential to assure students' future success.

They are:

- **Language:** ZU graduates will be able to communicate effectively in English and Modern Standard Arabic, using the academic and professional conventions of these languages appropriately.
- **Information Technology:** ZU graduates will be able to use current information technology to enhance productivity and effectiveness.
- **Critical Thinking and Quantitative Reasoning:** ZU graduates will be able to use both critical and quantitative

processes to solve problems and to develop informed opinions.

- **Information Literacy:** ZU graduates will be able to find, evaluate and use appropriate information from multiple sources to respond to a variety of needs.
- **Global Awareness:** ZU graduates will be able to understand and value their own and other cultures, perceiving and reacting to differences from an informed and socially responsible point of view.
- **Leadership:** ZU graduates will be able to undertake leadership roles and responsibilities, interacting effectively with others to accomplish shared goals.

Students focus on the importance of these abilities from the first day they enter the University through the end of their baccalaureate program. They will demonstrate their accomplishments through work submitted to their ePortfolios (Electronic Learning Portfolios) in selected courses and reach acceptable levels of proficiency in the Zayed University Learning Outcomes and Major Learning Outcomes before entering internships.

Terminology

Bachelor's Degree: A Bachelor's degree is the undergraduate academic degree awarded by Zayed University after the completion of all general education requirements and all requirements of a major, including achievement of the competencies in Zayed University Learning Outcomes (ZULO) specified by the student's major.

Major: A major is a program of study defined by the faculty in a specific academic or professional discipline or interdisciplinary combination, leading to a Bachelor's degree.

Minor: An academic minor is a program of study defined by the faculty of a college or department which may enhance the major and allows a secondary focus within a student's academic program.

Specialization: A specialization is a cluster of focused courses defined by the faculty of a college or department to provide more expertise and depth within an area in the major.

Teaching Field: A teaching field within the Upper Primary/Preparatory Specialization within the major in Education in the College of Education is the discipline area in which the student is prepared.