UNDERRGATE OVERVIEW

Academic Goals

The University seeks to foster the intellectual, personal, cultural, and social development of each student. It strives to provide distinguished instruction in a democratic atmosphere, bringing individual students into close contact with faculty whose scholarly attainments and concern for teaching are able to instill a love of learning.

The baccalaureate degree at UW-Eau Claire provides students with the knowledge and abilities needed for lifelong learning. In designing the degree, the faculty expects that graduates will have achieved the following goals:

- Knowledge Goal: Build knowledge and awareness of diverse peoples and cultures and of the natural and physical world through the study of arts, histories, humanities, languages, mathematics, sciences and technologies, and social sciences.
- Skills Goal: Develop intellectual and practical skills, including, for example, inquiry and analysis, critical and creative thinking, written and oral communication, quantitative literacy, information literacy, and teamwork and problem solving.
- Responsibility Goal: Apply personal and social responsibility for active citizenship and develop skills needed to thrive in a pluralistic and globally interdependent world.
- Integration Goal: Integrate learning across courses and disciplines, and between campus and community life.
- Service Learning Goal: Students will serve their community by applying skills and knowledge gained through university coursework and/or experiences.

The Liberal Education Core, which forms part of all baccalaureate degree curricula, contributes to the breadth of each student’s education through its emphasis on the cultural heritage of a free and responsible citizenry and on the development of creative imagination, critical judgment, and skill in the interchange of ideas. Students are afforded opportunities to collaborate with faculty on research and other scholarly and creative projects. UW-Eau Claire is recognized as a Center of Excellence for Faculty and Undergraduate Student Research Collaboration.

Upon this foundation, the University builds its programs in liberal arts and sciences and in professionally-oriented fields. In keeping with the goals of the baccalaureate degree, each program is designed to impart the specialized knowledge and competencies appropriate to the particular degree, while providing also for a broad overview of the entire area and an appreciation of its relationship to other fields of learning.

University Assessment

To assure that UW-Eau Claire’s programs are strong and that students in them are attaining appropriate levels of knowledge, skills, beliefs and attitudes, the faculty and staff at UW-Eau Claire have developed an ongoing process to assess the learning and academic achievement of students in academic and co-curricular programs. This process allows faculty and staff to carefully articulate program outcomes and to focus classroom and co-curricular experiences and assignments on preparing students to achieve those outcomes. An assessment plan is developed to measure progress toward the student learning outcomes, data are collected, and annual reports are developed and discussed by department faculty, chairs, and deans. Action plans are then designed to drive program improvement.