

Transforming the Undergraduate Experience: Strategic Positioning Initiatives

Educational Planning
and Policy Committee

March, 2007

Three new strategic positioning initiatives:

- Honors
- Writing
- Student Support Services



New focus on broad outcomes of a Minnesota education:

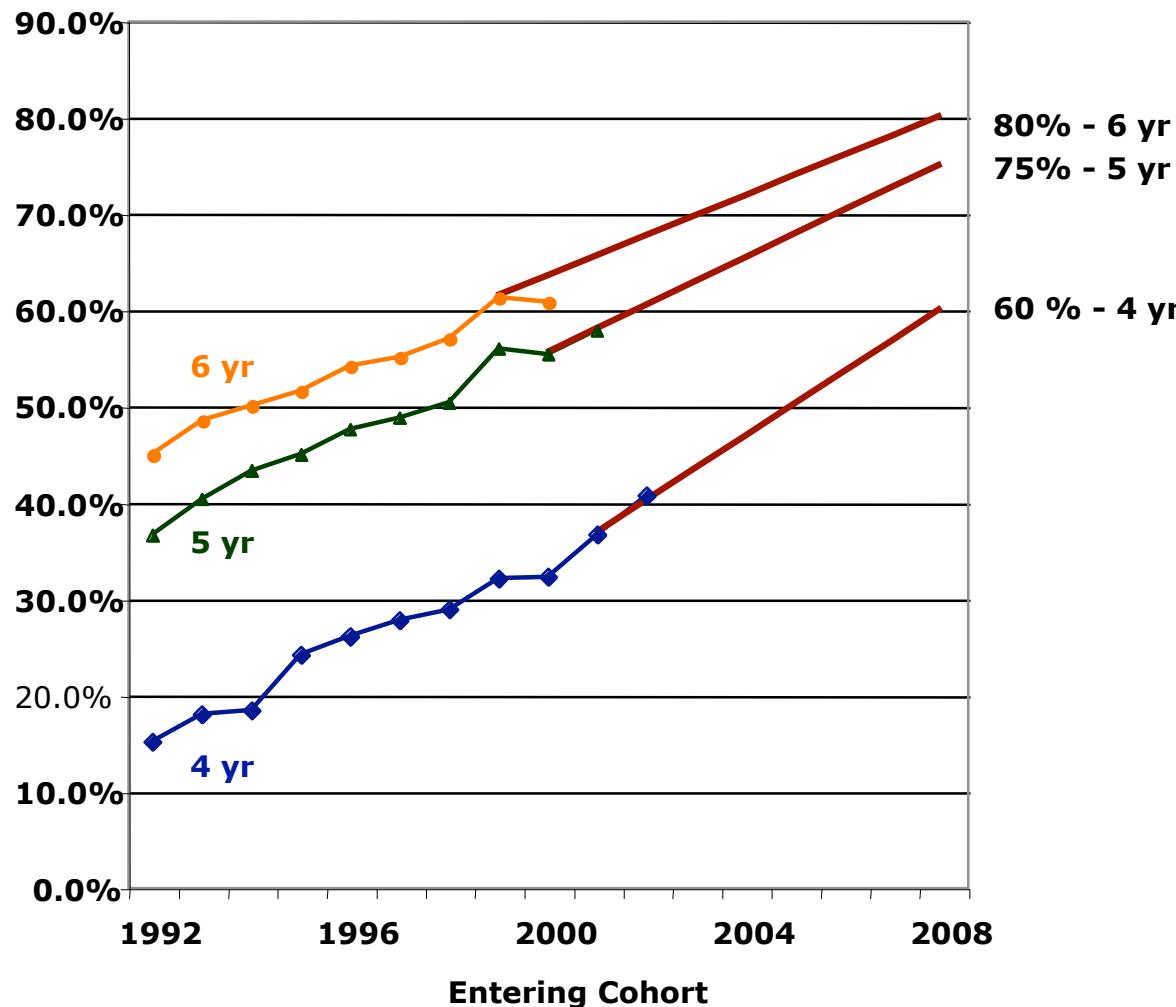


- Learning outcomes
- Personal developmental outcomes
- Council on Liberal Education

Guiding Principles

1. Focus is on students and their success
2. An array of resources and learning opportunities that enable students to exercise responsibility for their learning and success
3. The critical value and importance of diversity in guiding policies and strategies that promote student success at the University
4. An undergraduate experience that is second to none and based on research and scholarship

Context for Strategic Positioning: Upward Trajectory on Measures of Undergraduate Education



Increases in:

- Number of applicants
- Size of the freshman class
- Quality of the freshman class
- Percent of entering students who are students of color
- Percent of freshmen in the top 10% of their high school class
- Percent of freshmen living on campus
- Percent satisfied or very satisfied with their university experience



Strategic positioning and the undergraduate student experience: What will change?



What will change?

The new University Honors Program will draw more top-ranked Minnesota students with features such as:

- Intensive connection with faculty
- More honors classes
- Link to urban and community resources
- Cooperative admissions programs with professional schools



What will change?

- Freshmen will begin their college career with “Welcome Week,” which will orient them to the academic challenges awaiting them, and will also connect them to one another and to university resources
- Selected at-risk students will participate in a special bridge program to help them make the transition to college

What will change?

Founders Free Tuition Program will ensure access to a University of Minnesota education for low-income students



What will change?

Students will learn from and engage with peers from across the U.S. and the world through an increasingly diverse

University population



What will change?

Through the new Baccalaureate Writing Initiative students will experience:



- Unified and improved freshman writing courses
- Integrated help with writing through the writing centers
- A new focus on writing in the major

What will change?

Students will have more UROP opportunities and better coordinated information about undergraduate research . . .



What will change?

. . . more freshman seminars, which help new freshman understand the opportunities available at the University



What will change?

. . . better learning support through the expanded SMART Learning Commons



What will change?

. . . and extraordinary study
abroad opportunities.

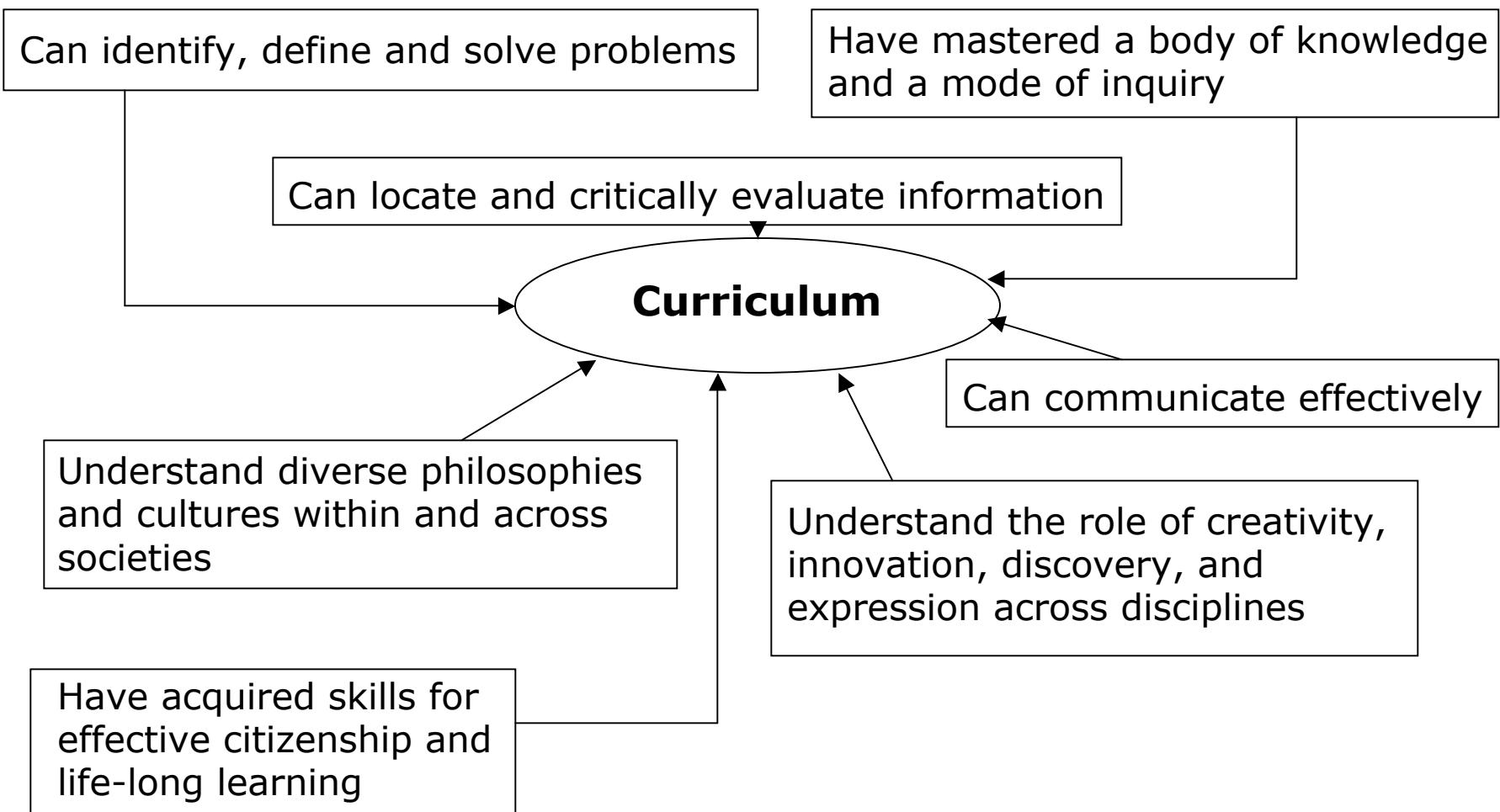


What will change?

Students will be better supported to meet their educational goals and graduate in a timely way, through:

- Improved advising services
- Better coordinated career services
- Targeted assistance for students in transition
- Better technological support for students and advisers (Grad Planner, Student Engagement Planner, Student Portal)

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: At the time of receiving a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota, students:



Developmental Outcomes

- Responsibility & Accountability
- Independence & Interdependence
- Goal Orientation
- Self-Confidence/Humility
- Resilience
- Appreciation of Differences
- Tolerance of Ambiguity



Transforming the Undergraduate Experience



Recruit,
educate,
challenge &
graduate
outstanding
students

Transforming the Undergraduate Experience

Will these initiatives continue to move the University closer to its strategic positioning goal?

Are the timeframes appropriate?

Do these initiatives sufficiently encompass the undergraduate experience?

Do the student learning and developmental outcomes adequately describe the qualities we want graduates to gain as a result of their experiences inside and outside the classroom?