IOWA

Competencies & Student Leadership

Integrating competencies into our work is about using a unifying framework to align what we know is already happening across the University of Iowa, it's not about creating new programs and services. This document outlines guidelines for integrating compentencies into student leadership.

Map it: During your planning for your annual retreat, course, or workshop – review what competencies could be reached through what you are already doing and think about any gaps in order to select any new competencies to help guide the curriculum/experience.

Name it: Once you know what students will gain as a result of being involved, you will need to intentionally name those skills. Consider the following questions as you are preparing to meet with students: What should they be learning? What opportunities could be provided to help students understand what they are learning? It is as easy as saying, "As a part of your experience in this student leadership opportunity, I expect you to learn problem solving skills, listening skills, and group development."

Focus on integrative learning: Students will have social, academic, and professional opportunities to improve their competence across many domains. When a student is able to make connections between their efforts in and out of the classroom, they are more likely to value the effort they make.

- What opportunities could be provided to help students make connections across contexts?
- How can the student connect the knowledge with the skill?

Effective reflection is critical: During advising sessions leading up to a retreat or transition ask the student leaders to write a quick paragraph about a few competencies. Ask them if the retreat or transition is missing any competency area that is vital to the success of the organization.

- What opportunities could be provided to help students reflect on their learning?
- What are some potential reflection questions, activities, etc.?
- Can you give me a couple of examples of things you've learned here that you think you will use in your future career?