

BGeXperience Learning Outcomes

The BGeXperience (BGeX) Program seeks to make critical thinking about values central to the education of BGSU students. Our goal is *not* to prescribe values that students should accept. Rather, we seek to help students understand the values and acquire the skills that underlie academic work generally as well as the value commitments and issues embedded in the subjects that they study. We teach students to think critically about the values important in their lives, and develop the skills to deal with value differences in the university and wider communities in which they live.

Because we regard values as ubiquitous and multiform, BGeX is designed to be inclusive involving a broad range of courses representing the diversity of disciplines at this university and the variety of interests of students and faculty. The Program includes academic and co-curricular experiences, because learning to think critically about values is not just an academic challenge, but a challenge that we expect our students to meet in the world beyond the university.

The learning outcomes outlined below are designed to provide coherence to the academic courses that are part of BGeX. They are flexible enough to fit naturally into courses in all parts of the curriculum. Instructors incorporate them into their course design—i.e., selection of readings, class topics, assignments, and assessment—in ways that reflect the diversity of faculty approaches and interests. BGeX courses share the common goal of helping students develop the skills and dispositions to reflect on and make thoughtful judgments about difficult and important values questions.

The learning outcomes for students in BGeX courses are:

- Recognize and describe values¹ that arise in the methods or content of the subject area.
- Identify ways in which these sometimes unexamined values shape or relate to academic and/or public discussion of issues relevant to today's citizens.
- Understand, articulate, and evaluate reasons and justifications that can support their own and others' value choices.

These must be incorporated into syllabi and, more importantly, the fabric of BGeX courses.

In the BGeX Introduction, the learning objectives include:

- Welcome participants to BGSU, engendering a sense of belonging and involvement.
- Initiate a sense of community through a climate of openness and trust, in small group discussions and activities.
- Convey expectations of membership in the BGSU learning community.
- Introduce participants to basic values vocabulary.
- Engage participants in basic values decision-making, through small group exercises and immersion in a common reading.
- Set a tone of cooperation, trust and synergy for an exciting course.

¹ We adopt a straight-forward definition that provides a common starting point for discussions in classes across the curriculum. For our purposes, *a value is a principle, standard, or quality considered worthwhile or desirable.*