

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME #8: Synthesize knowledge and skills relevant to one's major or particular field of study and apply them creatively to develop innovative outcomes.

FRAMING LANGUAGE

Students obtaining a baccalaureate degree at Northern Illinois University must be able to synthesize knowledge and skills relevant to their major or field of study, and apply them creatively to develop innovative outcomes. Such learning occurs across courses and experiences both within and beyond the classroom. Students may demonstrate their abilities in this area through the successful completion of assignments in which they are challenged to make connections, transfer knowledge and skills, and think innovatively to draw informed conclusions. This rubric identifies four critical components of synthesis and innovative application. This rubric may be applied to a variety of assignments designed to address the stated outcomes.

Criteria	Accomplished	Proficient	Developing	Beginning
Connections to Field of Study <i>Sees (makes) connections within and across disciplines, perspectives</i>	Independently creates wholes out of multiple parts (synthesizes) or draws conclusions by combining examples, facts, theories and/or experiences from more than one field of study or perspective.	Independently connects examples, facts, theories and/or experiences from more than one field of study or perspective.	When prompted, connects examples, facts, theories and/or experiences from more than one field of study or perspective.	When prompted, presents examples, facts, theories and/or experiences from more than one field of study or perspective.
Transfer <i>Adapts and applies skills, abilities, theories, or methodologies gained in one situation to new situations</i>	Independently adapts and applies, skills, abilities, theories, or methodologies gained in one situation to new situations to solve difficult problems or explore complex issues in original ways.	Adapts and applies skills, abilities, theories, or methodologies gained in one situation to new situations to solve problems or explore issues.	Uses skills, abilities, theories, or methodologies gained in one situation in a new situation to contribute to understanding of problems or issues.	Uses, in a basic way, skills, abilities, theories, or methodologies gained in one situation in a new situation.
Innovative Thinking <i>Novelty or uniqueness (of idea, claim, question, form, etc.)</i>	Extends a novel or unique idea, question, format, or product to create new knowledge or knowledge that crosses boundaries.	Creates a novel or unique idea, question, format, or product.	Experiments with creating a novel or unique idea, question, format, or product.	Reformulates a collection of available ideas.
Conclusions and Related Outcomes <i>(implications and consequences)</i>	Conclusions and related outcomes (consequences and implications) are logical and reflect student's informed evaluation and ability to place evidence and perspectives discussed in priority order.	Conclusion is logically tied to a range of information, including opposing viewpoints; related outcomes (consequences and implications) are identified clearly.	Conclusion is logically tied to information (because information is chosen to fit the desired conclusion); some related outcomes (consequences and implications) are identified clearly.	Conclusion is inconsistently tied to some of the information discussed; related outcomes (consequences and implications) are oversimplified.