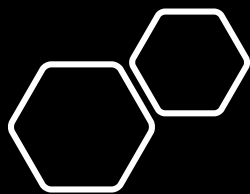


The CU Boulder Common Curriculum

February 2023 Update

Katherine Eggert

Senior Vice Provost for Academic Planning & Assessment



Common Curriculum: What brings us here?



October 2018: Academic Futures

*“Formulate and then move to implement a plan for **a campus-wide common learning experience and/or curriculum**”*

January 2020: Higher Learning Commission Accreditation Review

*“**CU Boulder does not have a ... philosophy or framework ... to ground and guide general education for all undergraduate students [as is required for accreditation].**”*

May 2020: Chancellor DiStefano’s Directive to the University

*Create a **“campus-wide common learning experience and a common set of intended learning outcomes”** for undergraduates*

Spring 2021: Listening Tour and Call for White Papers

2021–2022: Common Curriculum Planning Committee

- Draft proposal and campus input, April–September 2022
- Final proposal submitted to Provost , October 2022

October–December 2022: Discussions and voting

January 2023: Provost’s directive to implement the proposal

Boulder Faculty Assembly-designed voting plan:

- BFA vote
- Each college and school engaged in undergraduate teaching (including Libraries and Environmental Design) votes according to its own faculty governance rules

Solidly to unanimously in favor:

- ✓ BFA
- ✓ Arts & Sciences
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Engineering & Applied Science
- ✓ Libraries
- ✓ Environmental Design
- ✓ CMCI
- ✓ Music

Mixed results:

Leeds School of Business

- ❑ First vote: 22Y, 24N, 31 abstain
- ❑ Second vote: 31Y, 17N, 16 abstain;
two voters short of a quorum

Read the full proposal and the Provost's directive and learn more about the process

Common Curriculum web page:

www.colorado.edu/academicfutures/common-curriculum

Send questions to: commoncurriculum@colorado.edu

An outdoor theater with stone seating and a stage, with a brick building in the background and scaffolding for lighting. The text "Next steps" is overlaid in the center.

Next steps

Spring 2023: As per Provost's directives, BFA Chair Beechy, SVP Eggert, and VP Maeda design implementation principles in concert with the BFA

Spring-Summer 2023: Academic Affairs staff analysis of learning outcomes in degrees (including gen ed/core curricula & majors) and First-Year Experience. Objective: in conjunction with colleges, schools, ENVD, and Student Affairs, draft a map of Common Curriculum learning outcomes onto existing curricula and First-Year Experience

Fall 2023: Formation of a campus curriculum committee; will evaluate mapping

Fall 2023: Work with colleges, schools, ENVD, and Student Affairs to identify any gaps and opportunities to fill those gaps

An example: how do our degrees and the first-year experience meet this CC learning objective?

HABIT OF MIND: DISCOVERY. CU Boulder students will be active members of a university community that is devoted to the advancement of knowledge and marked by creation and creativity across all areas of research, scholarship, creative work, and innovation. They will cultivate curiosity and develop new ways of thinking, working, and living by participating in applied learning and invention and publicly presenting their research, scholarship, and creative work.

LEARNING OUTCOMES. Graduates of CU Boulder will be able to:

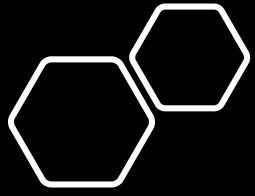
1. Evaluate positions, theories, practices, and/or methods on a topic they have defined and researched.
2. Investigate phenomena from multiple and distinct disciplinary perspectives, identifying points of agreement and disagreement and using ideas from one perspective to inform and critique another.
3. Integrate diverse ideas in creative and innovative ways to craft novel insights, new conceptual models, and/or solutions to problems.

Goal: Implement the Common
Curriculum for the entering class of fall
2024 . . . if possible

Appendix:

The Shape of the Common Curriculum

Common Curriculum Planning Committee Charge
& Membership



The shape of the Common Curriculum



A Common Curriculum is Not a Core Curriculum

Core curriculum

A prescribed curriculum organized as a fixed set of required courses/competencies, a set of “distribution requirements,” or a combination of the two.

Common Curriculum

A set of integrative values, learning outcomes, and common touchpoints that are reached in the diverse landscape of courses throughout the undergraduate career.

An Overall Purpose + Habits of Mind + Essential Skills

What is the purpose and distinctive nature of a CU Boulder education?

SUSTAINABLE FUTURES: SELF, SOCIETY, WORLD

At CU Boulder, students will gain an understanding of the interdependence of individual, societal and environmental wellbeing and of the necessity for stewardship and solutions to advance balanced and equitable futures for all. Throughout their CU Boulder education, students will cultivate skills and habits of mind that enable them to thrive as individuals and contribute to a thriving world.

What are the habits of mind through which our students will be prepared for sustainable futures?

Habit of Mind: Discovery

Preparing to be a lifelong thinker and problem-solver

Habit of Mind: Reflection

Preparing to engage in self-understanding, sustain personal well-being, and make ethical choices

Habit of Mind: Engagement

Preparing to advance a diverse democracy

Each Habit of Mind Is a Learning Objective, and Each Has Three Assessable Learning Outcomes

What are the skills essential for our students to shape sustainable futures?

Information Literacy:

Understanding how information is produced and valued

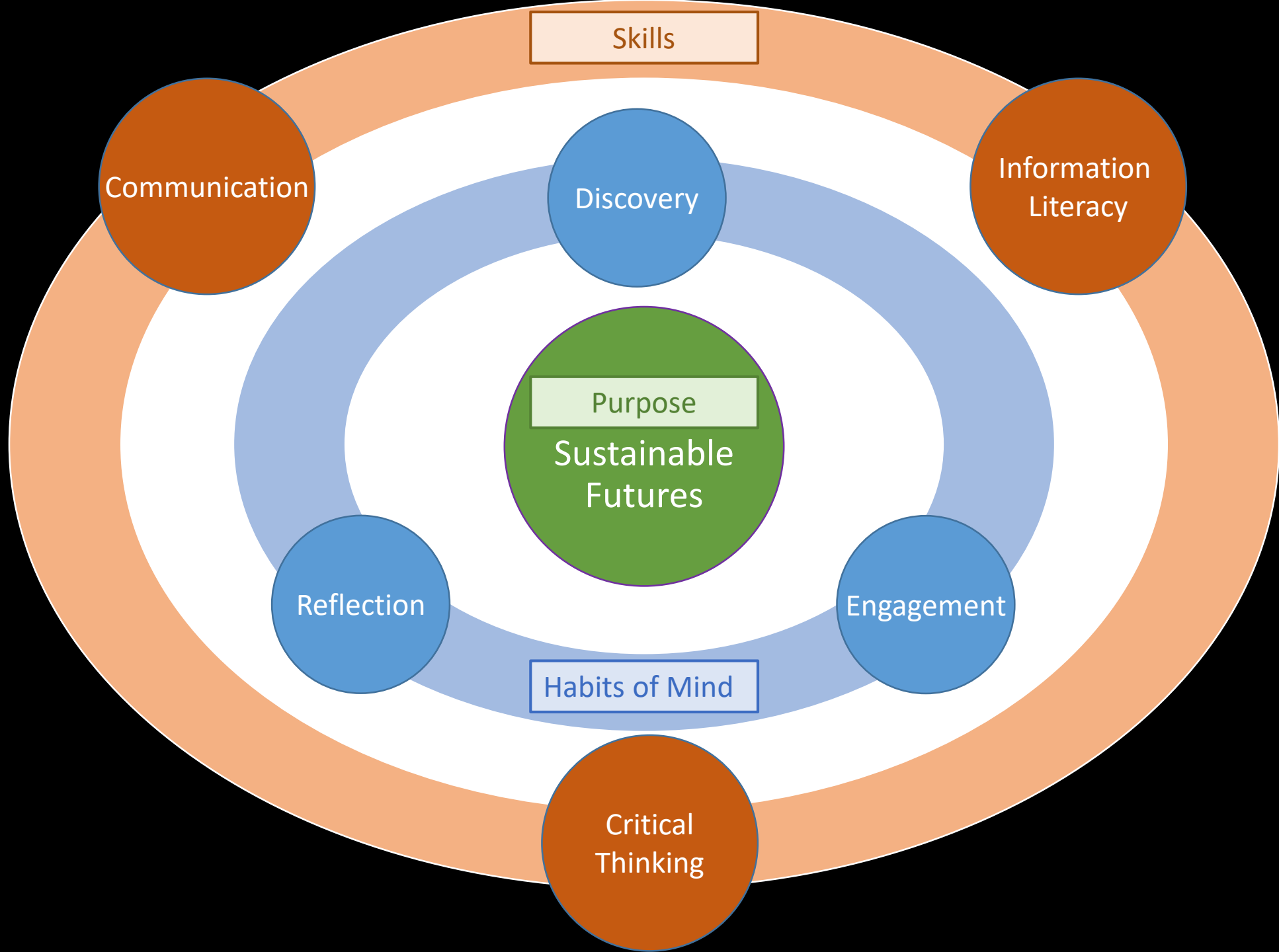
Critical Thinking:

Conceptualizing an original belief about or solution to an issue through reasoned questioning, evaluation, and judgment derived from rigorous analysis, interpretation, inference, observation, discussion, and/or experience

Each Skill Is a Learning Objective, and Each Has Three Assessable Learning Outcomes

Communication:

Effective expression, argumentation, and communication of ideas and sentiments to audiences



Skills

Communication

Information
Literacy

Discovery

Purpose
Sustainable
Futures

Reflection

Engagement

Habits of Mind

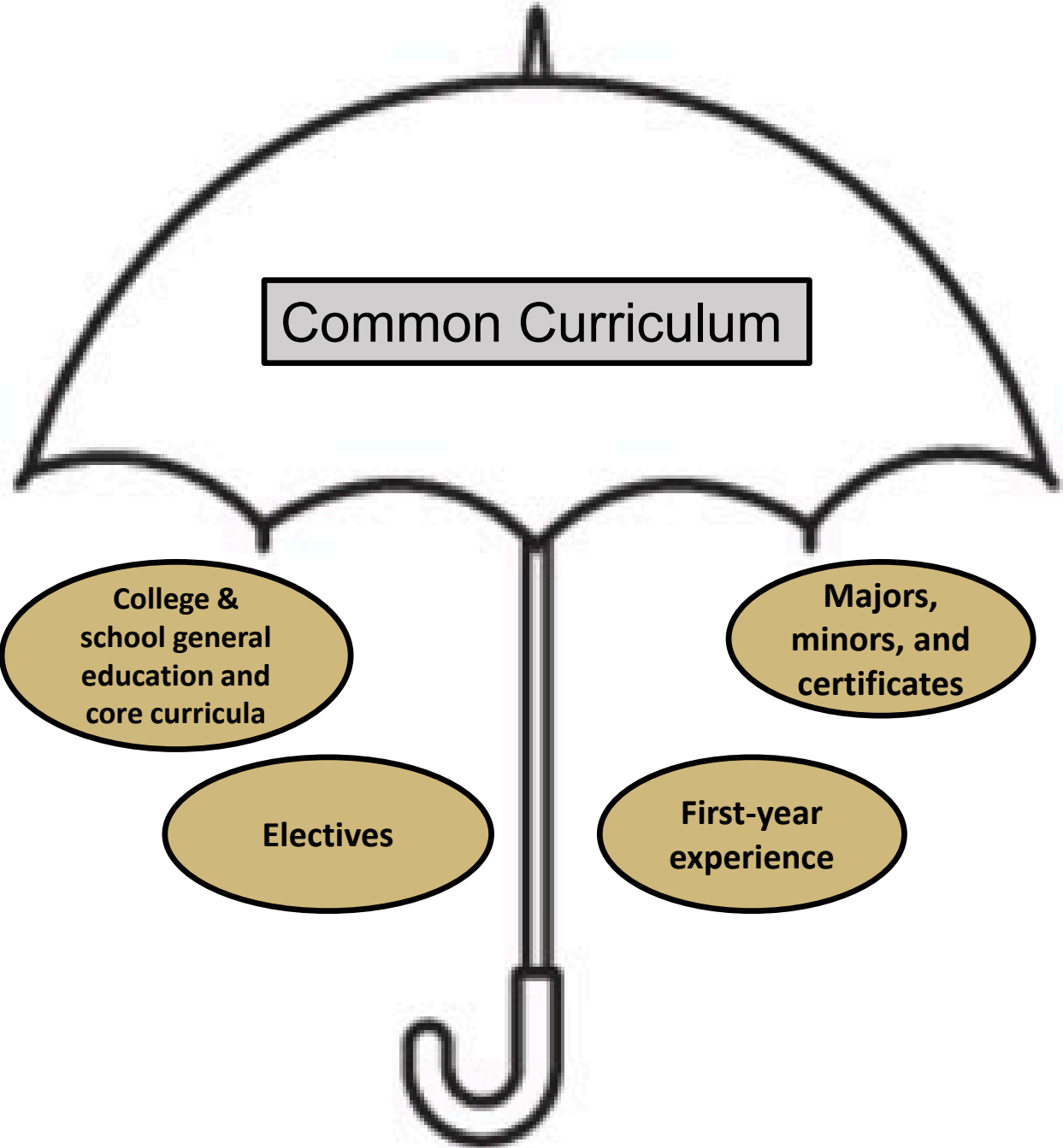
Critical
Thinking

How will the Common Curriculum be structured?

The common curriculum's learning objectives will be realized through the curricular pathways and *existing learning objectives and outcomes* of all the schools, colleges, and undergraduate degree programs at CU Boulder, including both general education (or core) requirements and the curricula of specific majors, minors, and certificates.

In addition, the common curriculum will incorporate the *First Year Experience and its co-curricular activities*, which focus on introducing students to academic life in higher education and reinforcing skills of study, citizenship, and self-care.

Thus, the common curriculum's objectives will span all levels of the undergraduate experience and be offered through both curricular and co-curricular activities.



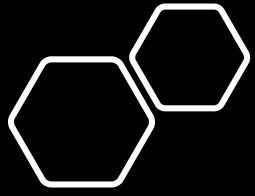
Common Curriculum

College & school general education and core curricula

Majors, minors, and certificates

Electives

First-year experience



Common Curriculum Planning Committee



Provost's charge to the Common Curriculum Planning Committee, September 23, 2021:

“I charge you . . . [with] the identification and design development of a common curriculum through which our undergraduate students will achieve shared learning goals that address integrative values and common touchpoints throughout the undergraduate career. I seek your guidance in proposing campus-wide learning goals that reflect both a deliberate statement about who we are as a university and that complement and enhance all of our educational programs.”

For the full charge, see www.colorado.edu/academicfutures/common-curriculum

Membership structure:

- * Ten faculty, representing all the schools and colleges with undergraduate degrees (including all three divisions of A&S), the University Libraries, and BFA
- * Three staff members, representing Student Affairs, Undergrad Education, and Arts & Sciences General Education administration
- * One undergraduate student
- * One graduate student

Common Curriculum Planning Committee Membership

Co-chairs

Katherine Eggert, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Planning & Assessment; Professor of English

Daryl Maeda, Dean and Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education; Professor of Ethnic Studies

Staff committee members

Shelly Bacon, Undergraduate Education

Patrick Tally, College of Arts and Sciences

Joe Thomas, Student Affairs

Student committee members

Evangelyne Eliason, fourth-year undergraduate student majoring in psychology

Jemil Abdu Kassahun, second-year Colorado Law student

Committee support staff

Andre Grothe, Office of Academic Planning & Assessment

Erika Swain, Office of Data Analytics

Robin Swift, Office of Information Technology

Faculty committee members

Russell Cropanzano, Leeds School of Business

Barbara Demmig-Adams, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Vicki Grove, Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures and officer of the Boulder Faculty Assembly

Roudy Hildreth, School of Education

Caroline Sinkinson, Libraries

Nicolò Spera, Music

Colin West, Physics

Cindy White, Communication

Wendy Young, Chemical and Biological Engineering

Thomas Zeiler, International Affairs