

SAUK IS A LEARNING COLLEGE, NOT JUST A TEACHING INSTITUTION

The measure of our failure or success is whether students are really learning what they need to. This means:

- We want you to **get involved** in your own learning.
- We want you to learn **how to learn** better.
- Our classes **fit together** into a coherent pattern.
- We want to **find out** what is working for you, what is not working for you, and why.

GET INVOLVED

College is more like learning to golf than like watching the news on TV. You can learn the news by sitting in front of the TV and listening for a while. You learn to golf by doing it, while an instructor shows you how to do it better. Learning in college is something that you do, with our help. Our teachers will use their expertise to guide you in mastering the subject. Just memorizing the facts won't be enough. You'll need to create, to innovate, to solve problems, to make decisions and compare different points of view.

LEARN HOW YOU LEARN

Not only will you have to learn the subject, you'll have to learn about yourself too. Learning to learn is the most important concept you'll ever tackle at Sauk. Set personal goals for your learning.

- **How much do you know about your own learning style?**
- **Do you know your strengths and weaknesses as a student?**

Ask what is working for you in your classes and what is not, and why. If you take this attitude, you'll find that Sauk lets you tailor your college experience to get the greatest personal benefit possible. Your instructors are eager to see you discover the disciplines that help you learn best.



OUR CLASSES FIT TOGETHER

"Why in the world do I have to take sociology, math, and English when all I want is to be a music major?"

Many college students are baffled by the wide variety of courses they have to take. Here is the secret: these different classes have much more in common than they seem to. They all teach you to think well. As a matter of fact, Sauk professors met for a semester to identify the six key areas that they hope you will learn again and again in all your different classes. They are called the SVCC General Education Competencies. If you are alert for them, you will find that these six competencies are emphasized in almost every class you take. Start connecting what you learn about them from one course to the next, and your college learning experience will move to an exciting new level.

SVCC General Education Competencies

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning
- Research
- Ethics
- Technology



WE WANT TO FIND OUT

It is easy for us at Sauk to be sure that teaching is taking place. We can just measure it, textbook by textbook and lecture by lecture. What is harder, but much more important, is finding out what learning is actually taking place. We want to learn more every year about what our students are learning, what they are not learning, and why.

One way we do this is by giving the CAAP test to Sauk students twice: once when they first start taking classes here, and later as they complete their degrees. This way we can compare your initial results to national norms, to find out what you really know when you start (not just what we assume you know). We can also find out how much you learned while you were here.

We will use the CAAP scores to understand what the average student at Sauk knows. You might not look much like the average student, though, so we also give you individualized feedback on your own CAAP performances. That way you can judge for yourself whether you have learned what you were hoping to during your years at Sauk.

CAAP tests students in six different areas:

- Writing mechanics
- Writing composition
- Mathematics
- Reading
- Critical Thinking
- Science

MORE THAN CAAP

CAAP scores are not the only way we will be assessing student learning. You can expect your professors to be finding out all they can about what helps you learn best – not just through graded items, like homework and finals, but through a variety of other techniques. You may encounter one-minute papers, student-led discussions, group presentations, and many more approaches. Keep in mind that they are all geared to help us help you learn how to learn better.

AN SVCC FORMAL STATEMENT ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS FOR US TO BE A LEARNING COLLEGE:

Our Philosophy

- As a learning college, we create an environment that promotes development in individual learners.
- As a learning college, we engage our students as partners in the learning process.
- As a learning college, we recognize our diverse population of learners and therefore create and offer a variety of diverse options for learning.
- As a learning college, we promote collaborative learning activities.
- As a learning college, we recognize that everyone employed by the college is a learning facilitator.
- As a learning college, we succeed when improved and expanded learning can be documented.

Adapted from: O'Banion, Terry, A Learning College for the 21st Century, American Council on Education and the Oryx Press, 1997



Sauk Valley Community College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and is a member of the Illinois Community College system.

University transfer programs and some career programs at Sauk are accepted in transfer by four-year colleges and universities.

Sauk Valley Community College is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to an effective policy of non-discrimination and equal opportunity in all employee and student relations. Except to the extent and subject to the exemptions permitted by law, no qualified employee or student shall be excluded from the employment or educational opportunity, be denied benefits, or be subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation (as that term is defined in the Illinois Human Rights Act), marital status, handicap, military status or unfavorable discharge from military service classified as Re-3 or the equivalent thereof.

ASSESSMENT AT A LEARNING COLLEGE

WHAT IT MEANS
TO YOU AS A STUDENT

 **Sauk Valley**
Community College

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