



Policy IO1.03: Pedagogy

Oversight	Information
Policy Type	Institutional Organization
Policy Owners	Board of Trust and Executive Council
Initial Policy Approval Date	March 12, 2014
Current Revision Approval Date	March 12, 2014
Procedure Effective Date	March 12, 2014

Policy

The pedagogy was developed with consultation from the Peabody College of Education at Vanderbilt and is referred to as the ACER Pedagogy. The cornerstones of the ACER Pedagogy are Access, Community, Experimentation, and Reflection. Each is described below:

Access reflects the use of internet technology to reach previously under-served students with a wide variety of techniques to match the diverse learning styles found in the student body. American Sentinel's approach to education is founded on an understanding of the historical evolution of education, contemporary adult learning theory, and the technological capabilities available for distance education. American Sentinel exists to serve the motivated professional, who for reasons of access such as cost, geography or time, have been unable to take advantage of educational opportunities. Access also reflects American Sentinel's educational philosophy that there is no single method that leads to effective learning. Rather, there are multiple paths that take into consideration both students' diverse learning styles and the dynamic range of education technology tools that currently support e-learning. By involving students in a variety of learning activities, respect is demonstrated for diverse ways of learning and knowing.

Community refers to the academic learning community of faculty and students. A strong community fosters meaningful discussion among students, allowing students to share their own prior experiences with the class, and to share in the experiences of others.

Experimentation refers to the practice of having learners apply new knowledge in a real-world or less structured assignment. Students are encouraged to apply what they've learned to work-related challenges, or to progress beyond the basic requirements of an assignment to discover new ways for the different pieces of the course material to combine and interact. Faculty members are encouraged to experiment with new approaches to learning and new modes of discussion.

Reflection is closely related to Community, and refers to a process by which bridges are built between new knowledge and the learner's experience. Practices that encourage reflection and application are based on the recognition that a learner's experience provides a context through which he or she is more able to construct meaning from new information. In American Sentinel



courses, students' past experiences and current circumstances are interwoven with subject matter in class discussion as well as in individual assignments.

Guidelines

- Not applicable

Procedure

- Not applicable

Related Documents/References

- Student Handbook
- Academic Catalog
- Faculty Handbook

Definitions

- None

Revision History

- May 7, 2020: Updated policy format for accessibility guidelines - AHB