Student Learning Outcomes

Cornerstones, General Education and Programs
Institution Level Student Learning Outcomes (ILO)

The Mission of Valley Forge Military College is to educate students within an academic and military environment to transfer to academically competitive four-year colleges, universities or service academies. The college builds leaders of character for the future, for the community, for the country, for the world.

Valley Forge Military College has a long tradition of fostering personal growth through a unique, comprehensive system built on the FIVE Cornerstones:

- Academic Excellence
- Leadership
- Character Development
- Personal Motivation
- Physical Development

In an effort to fulfill it’s mission, VFMC has defined the goals and the student learning outcomes at the institutional level through the aforesaid cornerstones to ensure that each student receives the best opportunity to forge his future.

Cornerstone 1: Academic Excellence

Goal – Students will gain an appreciation of all facets of liberal arts education as well as specific science, technology, engineering, and mathematical fields.

- **ILO 1-1 Define** and **describe** basic concepts and terminology in a given field
- **ILO 1-2 Explain** opposing views found within history, science, and social science fields
- **ILO 1-3 Solve** an identified dilemma or problem
- **ILO 1-4 Analyze** information from a variety of sources including quantitative and qualitative data
- **ILO 1-5 Effectively argue or justify** in written and oral format for the argumentative position or proposed solution
- **ILO 1-6 Design** and/or **propose** a new solution or point of view to a given problem

Cornerstone 2: Leadership

Goal - Students will identify and understand theories of leadership and develop a personal leadership style with application, to guide and inspire others.

- **ILO 2-1 Describe** qualities of an effective leader
- **ILO 2-2 Recognize** and **explain** various styles of leadership
- **ILO 2-3 Demonstrate** one’s own leadership style
- **ILO 2-4 Analyze** one’s own leadership styles and strategies
- **ILO 2-5 Evaluate** one’s own leadership styles and strategies and **recommend** ways to improve them.

Cornerstone 3: Character Development

Goal - Students will understand that honor and integrity are necessary foundations for the development of character.

- **ILO 3-1 Recognize** the significance of honor and integrity
- **ILO 3-2 Explain** honor and integrity, and how they form the foundations of character
- **ILO 3-3 Explain** and/or **demonstrate** ethical decision making
Cornerstone 4: Personal Motivation

Goal - Students will demonstrate a willingness to push towards a better ‘self’ through the development and accomplishment of individual and group goals.

- **ILO 4-1 Identify** individual interests and the relevant short-term and long-term goals associated with it
- **ILO 4-2 Identify** the curricular and extra-curricular activities that lead to success in the defined personal goals
- **ILO 4-3 Demonstrate** an ability to develop, refine and attain goals in a continuous process.

Cornerstone 5: Physical Development

Goal - Students will learn that a healthy lifestyle is maintained through a holistic approach that includes developing the mind, body, and spirit.

- **ILO 5-1 Recognize** the significance of a healthy lifestyle
- **ILO 5-2 Associate** a healthy lifestyle to sound leadership, better character development, and improved academic achievement
- **ILO 5-3 Practice** a healthy lifestyle by participating in a physical fitness regimen
The General Education Program at Valley Forge Military College supports the mission of the college by providing students the opportunity to gain common collective knowledge about the world they live in. Through the core competencies of Civic and Global Engagement, Oral and Written Communication, Leadership, Cultures, Quantitative Reasoning and Scientific and Technological Applications, a VFMC graduate is expected to learn to think creatively, reason critically, communicate effectively, appreciate other cultures, understand the principles of the natural world and make informed decisions when faced with a dilemma or problem.

Core Competency 1: Civic and Global Engagement

Goal - Students will gain knowledge of domestic and international governmental structures and economic systems to engage with the global community

- GLO 1-1 Describe domestic and international government structures and economic systems
- GLO 1-2 Identify the characteristics of domestic and international government structures and economic systems
- GLO 1-3 Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between a nation-state’s government structures and economic systems
- GLO 1-4 Examine and explain the strengths and weaknesses of government structures and economic systems

Core Competency 2: Oral and Written Communication

Goal - Students will learn to conduct research, analyze evidence, create arguments and present them in written and oral format

- GLO 2-1 Recognize that writing is a process by composing multiple drafts, revising, and editing writing assignments.
- GLO 2-2 Demonstrate an understanding of rhetorical structures and appeals to construct a researched argument for an audience.
- GLO 2-3 Produce expository & analytical writing that is organized and stylistically appropriate for a particular audience.
- GLO 2-4 Locate, evaluate, integrate, analyze, and cite secondary sources of information effectively and ethically, using appropriate academic citation.

Core Competency 3: Leadership

Goal - Students will identify and understand theories of leadership and develop a personal leadership style with application, to guide and inspire others

- GLO 3-1 Describe qualities of an effective leader
- GLO 3-2 State personal leadership qualities for future applications
- GLO 3-3 Demonstrate one’s own leadership style
- GLO 3-4 Analyze one’s own leadership styles and strategies
Core Competency 4: Cultures

Goal - Students will demonstrate an understanding of the arts, language, history, and literature

- GLO 4-1 Remember and recall relevant historical and cultural details
- GLO 4-2 Explain how cultural understanding impacts historical causation and literary expression
- GLO 4-3 Use historical and cultural frameworks to interpret literary and artistic works
- GLO 4-4 Examine and explain works in literature and fine arts of a culture

Core Competency 5: Quantitative Reasoning

Goal - Students will develop an understanding of quantitative reasoning that includes the use of numbers and symbols, measurement and properties and how to make decisions, judgments, and predictions

- GLO 5-1 Represent mathematical information symbolically, visually, numerically, and/or verbally
- GLO 5-2 Estimate and check answers to mathematical problems in order to determine reasonableness
- GLO 5-3 Apply arithmetical, algebraic, geometric, analytical and/or statistical methods, models or concepts to solve problems and interpret the results in specific courses of study
- GLO 5-4 Make inferences based on a given set of data or from mathematical models such as formulas, graphs, and tables using mathematical and statistical techniques

Core Competency 6: Scientific and Technological Applications

Goal - Students will learn the fundamental principles underlying modern scientific and technological ideas and concepts, and use those concepts to solve problems

- GLO 6-1 State specific techniques for data evaluation, presentation of results and drawing inferences from the results
- GLO 6-2 Gain a basic understanding of concepts, methods, principles, and laws relevant to a specific area of study
- GLO 6-3 Apply critical thinking and problem solving skills
- GLO 6-4 Retrieve, organize and analyze data associated with scientific and technological methods
Program Level Outcomes (PLO)

The Business Administration Program at VFMC is to build upon the college mission statement of developing innovative, ethical, and socially responsible organizational leaders to advance business practices.

Goal 1 - Demonstrate an understanding of the functions of business
- PLO-BUS 1-1 Describe the basic concepts of business principles
- PLO-BUS 1-2 Explain current business practices and topics
- PLO-BUS 1-3 Demonstrate competency in the practical aspects of the specialized areas in business disciplines
- PLO-BUS 1-4 Analyze the disciplines of business and their use to support decision making by internal and external users

Goal 2 - Employ tools and skills necessary to solve business and organizational problems
- PLO-BUS 2-1 Define the basic components of certain business disciplines and functions
- PLO-BUS 2-2 Compare business theory to current business problems and practices
- PLO-BUS 2-3 Solve quantitative business problems
- PLO-BUS 2-4 Analyze business challenges using critical thinking and quantitative methods.

Goal 3 - Research and apply business problem solving and decision making in the context of the larger social and economic environment
- PLO-BUS 3-1 Identify a business problem within an organization in today’s business environment.
- PLO-BUS 3-2 Research and discuss a given business problem
- PLO-BUS 3-3 Apply relevant laws, regulations, and ethical considerations to U.S. and international business activity for potential liability, and legal protection and remedies.
- PLO-BUS 3-4 Analyze the role of ethical and socially responsible business practice in a global society

Goal 4 - Apply the necessary skills to communicate and effectively participate in business
- PLO-BUS 4-1 Identify a business problem
- PLO-BUS 4-2 Research and describe a possible solution to a business problem
- PLO-BUS 4-3 Use information technology to determine a possible solution to the given problem
- PLO-BUS 4-4 Analyze and evaluate the proposed solution
- PLO-BUS 4-5 Recommend innovative solutions
- PLO-BUS 4-6 Compose effective written and/or oral presentations to deliver the proposed solution
The Liberal Arts Program at VFMC prepares students for lifelong learning by promoting the development of informed critical thinking and open-ended inquiry. Our students graduate with the skills valued in all disciplines and careers: the ability to write and reason with clarity and precision, a talent for making keen analyses, and the confidence to take their places as citizen-leaders in an increasingly complex global society.

**Goal 1 - Introduce students to the skills for lifelong learning, including the ability to think critically and creatively in oral and written contexts**

- PLO-LBA 1-1 Identify, define and examine key concepts in the discipline.
- PLO-LBA 1-2 Discuss and explain discipline specific content.
- PLO-LBA 1-3 Use knowledge to demonstrate and interpret fundamental ideas from the discipline.
- PLO-LBA 1-4 Select reliable texts to write an effective argumentative essay.
- PLO-LBA 1-5 Summarize and appraise claims to write an effective argumentative essay.
- PLO-LBA 1-6 Design effective oral presentations that Illustrate and interpret central concepts in the discipline.

**Goal 2 - Expose students to a variety of disciplinary fields that provide a solid foundation in the Liberal Arts.**

- PLO-LBA 2-1 Recognize and define basic concepts in the field.
- PLO-LBA 2-2 Identify and discuss discipline specific concepts and principles
- PLO-LBA 2-3 Critically interpret written work on discipline-specific content.
- PLO-LBA 2-4 Distinguish historical connections to artistic, ethical, sociopolitical, and moral dimensions of contemporary life.
- PLO-LBA 2-5 Critically evaluate written work on discipline-specific content.
- PLO-LBA 2-6 Plan and construct a written or oral presentation on discipline-specific content

**Goal 3 - Analyze, critique, and construct responses to the challenges of the marketplace and human society**

- PLO-LBA 3-1 Define and examine key concepts in the field
- PLO-LBA 3-2 Identify one’s presumptions, values, viewpoints, and inconsistencies.
- PLO-LBA 3-3 Interpret and explain viewpoints and concepts
- PLO-LBA 3-4 Critically analyze one’s own thinking by identifying one’s presumptions, values, viewpoints, and inconsistencies.
- PLO-LBA 3-5 Evaluate the assumptions, values, perspectives, and arguments in a text or creative work.
- PLO-LBA 3-6 Construct and justify alternative hypotheses and viewpoints

**Goal 4 - Introduce cross-cultural understanding through examining international cultures and political systems**

- PLO-LBA 4-1 Define and describe simple concrete subjects in a language other than English in both oral and written form.
- PLO-LBA 4-2 Interpret aesthetic qualities of works of literature and the fine or performing arts
- PLO-LBA 4-3 Demonstrate knowledge of the diverse intellectual, social, political, economic, aesthetic, and/or cultural practices of Western and non-Western civilization
- PLO-LBA 4-4 Critically analyze aesthetic qualities of works of literature and the fine or performing arts
- PLO-LBA 4-5 Appraise and critique aesthetic qualities of works of literature and the fine or performing arts
- PLO-LBA 4-6 Construct and develop presentations to illustrate understanding of literature and the fine or performing arts
The Justice and Security Studies program at VFMC is committed to providing students with a comprehensive background in local, state, national, and international security considerations. Through an emphasis on both theoretical perspectives and practical concerns, the students will develop an interdisciplinary understanding of the fundamentals of security whether in law enforcement, information security, or national and global security. Within each concentration, students will gain an appreciation for the complexity of the twenty-first century security environment. The program will deliver instruction that will bring balance to the students’ world-view that will allow them to quickly assess situations, identify problems, and propose solutions to those problems. Ultimately, it will enable students to enter into the workforce as a low-level security professional, or transfer to a four-year institution.

Goal 1 - Students will understand the multi-tiered levels of security considerations to include local, state, national, or international

- **PLO-JSS 1-1** Describe how communications across multiple agencies and organizations is crucial for maintaining threat awareness and responses.
- **PLO-JSS 1-2** Explain and interpret how communications across multiple agencies and organizations is crucial for maintaining threat awareness and responses.
- **PLO-JSS 1-3** Determine security and legal concepts and methods relevance in addressing security and legal problems
- **PLO-JSS 1-4** Compare and contrast the many levels and types of security
- **PLO-JSS 1-5** Recommend to organizations and institutions responses to incidents involving aspects of a security infrastructure
- **PLO-JSS 1-6** Design responses to incidents involving aspects of a security infrastructure

Goal 2 - Students will gain an appreciation for the technological aspects of information security.

- **PLO-JSS 2-1** Identify the potential damage caused by cybercrime and cyberterrorism
- **PLO-JSS 2-2** Explain the security threats caused by cybercrime and cyberterrorism.
- **PLO-JSS 2-3** Categorize the potential damage caused by cybercrime and cyberterrorism
- **PLO-JSS 2-4** Explain viable arguments to promote responsible information security policy within industry, government, and the military.

Goal 3 - Students will understand the theoretical and practical aspects of decision making in local, state, national, or international security environments.

- **PLO-JSS 3-1** Explain how making timely, efficient, and effective decisions is enhanced through training, education, and experience
- **PLO-JSS 3-2** Determine how making timely, efficient, and effective decisions is enhanced through training, education, and experience
- **PLO-JSS 3-3** Prioritize security concerns across organizations and institutions whether they are technological, criminal, man-made, natural, or any combination of the above
- **PLO-JSS 3-4** Assess threats involving breaches of security, or natural and man-made disasters.

Goal 4 - Students will gain an appreciation for the historical and cultural elements contained within security environment of local, state, national, or international areas

- **PLO-JSS 4-1** Identify how areas of history and culture of populations may affect security professionals’ decisions
- **PLO-JSS 4-2** Explain and discuss how history and culture affect the security environment and security responses.
- **PLO-JSS 4-3** Determine how history and culture affect the security environment and security responses.
- **PLO-JSS 4-4** Analyze solutions to security dilemmas
- **PLO-JSS 4-5** Summarize and criticize solutions to security dilemmas
- **PLO-JSS 4-6** Compose written analyses that summarize, critique, and propose solutions to security dilemmas.
The **Health and Biological Sciences Program** at VFMC provides students the fundamental knowledge and skills to successfully prepare them in a variety of biological and health related programs.

**Goal 1 - Provide students with a solid foundation of knowledge through program related courses**

- **PLO-SCI 1-1** Define discipline specific fundamental concepts & terminology  
- **PLO-SCI 1-2** Describe discipline specific processes and principles including ethical implications  
- **PLO-SCI 1-3** Demonstrate use of discipline specific concepts and methods  
- **PLO-SCI 1-4** Connect scientific principles to practical applications

**Goal 2 - Integrate program specific methods to develop analytical and critical thinking skills.**

- **PLO-SCI 2-1** Identify the components of the scientific method  
- **PLO-SCI 2-2** Describe the components of the scientific method  
- **PLO-SCI 2-3** Demonstrate the understanding of theory through interpretation of experimental results  
- **PLO-SCI 2-4** Compare and analyze relationship between concepts

**Goal 3 - Provide students the opportunity to develop written & oral communication skills required for relevant professional fields**

- **PLO-SCI 3-1** Memorize and recall discipline specific terminology  
- **PLO-SCI 3-2** Interpret discipline specific publications  
- **PLO-SCI 3-3** Explain and/or solve discipline specific questions  
- **PLO-SCI 3-4** Connect cross-disciplinary principles and concepts  
- **PLO-SCI 3-5** Assess and evaluate discipline specific publications  
- **PLO-SCI 3-6** Design & Compose discipline specific reports on case studies and problems
The Engineering and Physical Sciences Program at VFMC provide students a solid foundation in the scientific method and knowledge of principles that govern the workings of the physical world. Through a combination of theory and practice, students in this program will gain enhanced skills in critical thinking, analysis and interpretation of observations of physical phenomena.

Goal 1 - Provide students with a solid foundation of knowledge through program related courses

- PLO-SCI 1-1 Define discipline specific fundamental concepts & terminology
- PLO-SCI 1-2 Describe discipline specific processes and principles including ethical implications
- PLO-SCI 1-3 Demonstrate use of discipline specific concepts and methods
- PLO-SCI 1-4 Connect scientific principles to practical applications

Goal 2 - Integrate program specific methods to develop analytical and critical thinking skills.

- PLO-SCI 2-1 Identify the components of the scientific method
- PLO-SCI 2-2 Describe the components of the scientific method
- PLO-SCI 2-3 Demonstrate the understanding of theory through interpretation of experimental results
- PLO-SCI 2-4 Compare and analyze relationship between concepts

Goal 3 - Provide students the opportunity to develop written & oral communication skills required for relevant professional fields

- PLO-SCI 3-1 Memorize and recall discipline specific terminology
- PLO-SCI 3-2 Interpret discipline specific publications
- PLO-SCI 3-3 Explain and/or solve discipline specific questions
- PLO-SCI 3-4 Connect cross-disciplinary principles and concepts
- PLO-SCI 3-5 Assess and evaluate discipline specific publications
- PLO-SCI 3-6 Design & compose discipline specific reports on case studies and problems