Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to explain the purpose of UK Core
- Students will be able to generally describe how UK Core is organized
- Students will be able to explain why UK Core matters to them

Introduction Activity (approximately 5 - 7 minutes)

- Ask students to think about what job they hope to have in 5 years, 10 years, etc. If they have more than one job that interests them, even better. Encourage them to write down all of their ideas. Give them about 30 seconds to a minute to ponder that and write it all down on a piece of paper.
- Next, tell them to think about all of the possible knowledge or sets of skills that would be required for each job they wrote down. Give them about 2 to 3 minutes to write all of those skills down next to each job.
- Ask students to share what they know about UK Core.
- Give students the UK Core student handout. Provide a brief overview here in terms of how UK Core is organized in terms of learning outcomes and especially content areas. Have them take a couple of minutes to read through it, and then have them write down a content area (or areas) next to each job skill that they listed. In other words, match UK Core content areas with job skills.
- Ask for volunteers to share what content areas they wrote down, what they discovered, what surprised them, etc.

UK Core Explanation, Continued

- Many students get frustrated because they have to take 30 hours of these courses and don’t see what benefit they are getting from them. Below is a great description that might help students understand the purpose of UK Core a little better:

  UK’s general education program, known as UK Core, was implemented in fall 2011 and is the product of several years of faculty discussion which sought to create a vibrant and intentional curriculum focused on what students will be able to DO when they graduate. You could think of UK Core as a cruise within your college experience where the stops are pre-determined by faculty experts who know what kinds of experiences will give you a full and coherent sense of the territory. You will have the opportunity to make many choices along the way, but the general itinerary is planned in advance. Your UK Core experience has been thoughtfully designed and can help you get the most from your journey through college; preparing you both for work and also a life lived with others.

- Refer back to the UK Core Course Objectives handout – Again, it gives a brief description of what a course in each of 10 content areas must accomplish. This sheet also has examples of some of the courses that would fulfill that course objective, although there are many more courses from which a student could choose. (Note: Do not go into too much detail regarding the structure and purpose of UK Core. Elaborate on what you said previously.)

- Remind students that their advisor will assist them in choosing these courses. Courses that fulfill the UK Core requirement will be addressed in the APEX lesson later in the course.

- In this next activity, you will investigate how the UK Core courses relate to various professional and personal scenarios.
Distribute the scenarios handout

- PowerPoint handout – Contains six scenarios involving a corporate decision, municipal action, or personal choice.

Divide students into 6 groups and assign each group one of the six scenarios

- Using the Course Objectives handout/information, each group must identify at least two content areas that would be useful in providing the knowledge and skills necessary to accomplish the assigned task and explain how those skills would apply to this task.

- Allow approximately 10 – 15 minutes for group work. Circulate among the groups to answer questions and ensure that the students are on task.

- After allotted time, each group reports out, naming one content area and explaining why it is relevant to their scenario. The instructor creates a list of the areas as the students share their results.

- After each group has had an opportunity to report out one content area, a second round of reports is done giving each group a chance to add a second content area that is not already on the list.

- All ten content areas should be listed by the end of the second round. To ensure that all ten content areas are represented, the instructor may provide prompts or suggest answers based on the instructor handout provided.

Possible summation comments

- An argument can be made that all 10 content areas could prove useful for each scenario.

- Given that you don't know what personal and professional situations you might encounter in the future, having a variety of knowledge and skills could be useful.

Updated 5/5/2014