Applied Baccalaureate Degrees: Modern Expressions of Traditional Values

Ronald L. Baker, Ed.D.
Founder and President
Baker Collegiate Consulting
Perspective

Board Member
Community College Baccalaureate Association

Executive Vice President (Retired)
Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities

Founding Vice President for Student Learning
Cascadia (Community) College

Co-Director
Oregon Degree Qualifications Profile (DQP) Project

Director of Distance Education
Oregon Community Colleges

Principal (Several National Innovation Initiatives)
League for Innovation in the Community College
A great wind is blowing, and that gives you either imagination or a headache.

Catherine the Great
Characteristics

Applied baccalaureate degrees require a level of conceptual sophistication, specialized knowledge, and intellectual autonomy similar to that in a traditional baccalaureate program, but with a direct application of knowledge to practice in a work-based context.
The baccalaureateness of a bachelor’s degree—theoretical or applied, abstract or practical—is determined by manifestations of seven canons of higher learning.

The main difference between applied and theoretical degrees is not the absence or presence of these canons, but the degree to which they link to real-world practice.
Canons

Freedom of Thought
Scholarship
Preparation for Mastery
Lifelong Learning
Social Responsibility
Personal Growth
Self-Actualization
Develop independent perspectives of truth through exploration, examination, and evaluation in the application of learning to practice.
Scholarship

Expand intellect, enrich meaning, and enhance understanding related to the application of learning through analysis and synthesis within and between domains of knowledge.
Preparation for Mastery

Develop a foundation for advanced study in the practical application of learning.
Lifelong Learning

Blend intellect development with skill development for immediate short-term benefit, culture habits of practice for learning, and develop a conceptual and intellectual foundation to sustain learning for long-term success.
Social Responsibility

Promote the common good through exploration of individual and shared responsibilities for active, ethical, and responsible membership in a diverse society.
Personal Growth

Explore the human condition, examine truth, and discover a sense of self through inquiry, self-examination, and reflection.
Self-Actualization

Realize individual potential and optimize personal and professional fulfillment of one’s potential in recognizing, addressing, and resolving real-world problems.
Does your pilot project program possess sufficient baccalaureateness to warrant a bachelor’s designation?
No question is so difficult to answer as that to which the answer is obvious.

George Bernard Shaw
Proxy

It is much easier to itemize the requirements of a curriculum than to describe the qualities of the human beings we would like that curriculum to produce.

William Cronon
Baccalaureativeness

Bachelor’s Degree Complement

Associate Degree

Depth

Breadth

Depth

Breadth

Associate Degree 1

Associate Degree 2
Thinking is the hardest work there is, which is the probable reason why so few engage in it.

Henry Ford
The last thing one knows in constructing a work is what to put first.

Blaise Pascal
Sequence

What are we trying to do?

Why are we doing it?

How will we do it?
Curriculum Development

Move from macro to micro: Thinking to doing
Determine hard and soft skill expectations
Develop program outcomes
Develop program-level learning outcomes
Develop a framework of courses
Adopt/modify/create courses w/outcomes
Identify library/co-curricular resources
Ensure alignment/integration of outcomes!
Thoughts

Be mindful of unintended consequences
Maintain reasonable parameters/objectives
Think holistically; Maintain coherence
Don’t rush, but don’t wait for perfection
Be curious; Learn from (don’t copy) others
Be confident in your ability to learn/adapt
Be authentic; Don’t ignore gut feelings
This on an E-ticket ride; Savor the journey!
If you’re going through hell, keep going.
Winston Churchill
Thank You!

Ronald L. (Ron) Baker, Ed.D.
Ron@BakerCollegiateConsulting.com
www.BakerCollegiateConsulting.com
425-327-3914