Evaluation Outcome Categories and Components

Communication

- Uses and understands professional and discipline-specific language.
- Expresses ideas in an organized, clear, concise, and accurate manner.
- Writes clearly and effectively in discipline-specific formats.

Creativity

- Brings new insights to the problem at hand.
- Shows ability to approach problems from different perspectives.
- Combines information in new ways and/or demonstrates intellectual resourcefulness.
- Effectively connects multiple ideas/approaches.

Autonomy

- Demonstrates the ability to work independently and identify when input, guidance, and feedback are needed.
- Accepts constructive criticism and applies feedback effectively.
- Displays high level of confidence in ability to meet challenges.
- Uses time well to ensure work gets accomplished and meets deadlines.

Ability To Deal With Obstacles

- Learns from and is not discouraged by setbacks and unforeseen events.
- Shows flexibility and a willingness to take risks and try again.

Practice And Process Of Inquiry

- Demonstrates ability to formulate questions and hypotheses within the discipline.
- Demonstrates ability to properly identify and/or generate reliable data.
- Shows understanding of how knowledge is generated, validated, and communicated within the discipline.

Nature Of Disciplinary Knowledge

- Shows understanding of the way practitioners think within the discipline (e.g., as an earth scientist, sociologist, or artist) and view the world around them.
- Shows understanding of the criteria for determining what is valued as a contribution to the discipline.
- Shows understanding of important current individuals within the discipline.

Critical Thinking And Problem Solving

- Trouble-shoots problems, searches for ways to do things more effectively, and generates, evaluates, and selects between alternatives.
- Recognizes discipline-specific problems and challenges established thinking when appropriate.
- Recognizes flaws, assumptions, and missing elements in arguments.

Understanding Ethical Conduct

- Shows understanding and respect for intellectual property rights.
- Predicts, recognizes, and weighs the risks and benefits of the project for others.
- Recognizes the severity of creating, modifying, misrepresenting, or misreporting data, including omission or elimination of data/findings or authorship.

Intellectual Development

- Demonstrates growth from basic to more complex thinking in the discipline.
- Recognizes that problems are often more complicated than they first appear to be and the most economical solution is usually preferred over convoluted explanations.

- Approaches problems from a perspective that there can be more than one right explanation or model or even none at all.
- Displays accurate insight into the extent of his/her own knowledge and understanding and an appreciation for what isn't known.

Culture Of Scholarship

- Is involved in the scholarly community of the discipline and/or professional societies.
- Behaves with a high level of collegiality and ethical responsibility.

Content Knowledge Skills/Methodology

- Displays detailed and accurate knowledge of key facts and concepts.
- Displays a thorough grasp of relevant research methods and is clear about how these methods apply to the research project being undertaken.
- Demonstrates an advanced level of requisite skills.

From Jill Singer and Bridget Zimmerman, 2012, Evaluating a Summer Undergraduate Research Program: Measuring Student outcomes and Program Impact, CUR Quarterly, v. 32, no. 3, p. 40-47.