



SIGNATURE ASSIGNMENTS

WHAT IS A SIGNATURE ASSIGNMENT, AND WHY DOES IT MATTER TO MAVEd?

A signature assignment is a central feature of UNO's revised general education curriculum. It is a substantial, integrative task designed to help students demonstrate transferable learning outcomes within a meaningful context and enables assessment of MavEd outcomes.

These assignments typically:

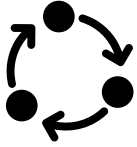
- Reinforce integrative learning by guiding students to connect ideas across disciplines, experiences, and skills, demonstrating holistic understanding.
- Reinforce critical thinking by engaging students in the analysis of complex issues, the synthesis of diverse perspectives, and the application of reasoned judgment.
- Encourage meaningful reflection by prompting students to consider how their learning shapes future decisions and actions.
- Promote authentic assessment through applied tasks that mirror real-world challenges.

Examples include:

- Analyze a local policy issue and propose evidence-based recommendations in a written report.
- Conduct a scientific investigation and present findings in a format suitable for a general audience.

Signature assignments are a vital component of UNO's general education curriculum, providing meaningful opportunities for students to demonstrate and apply transferable skills in real-world contexts. They support student development by integrating learning, reflection, and authentic evaluation. Through these assignments, students engage more deeply with their education and its relevance beyond the classroom.

CORE EXPECTATIONS



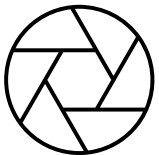
Demonstrates Transferable Learning Outcomes

A signature assignment must intentionally address all three of UNO's transferable learning outcomes: integrative learning, critical thinking and information literacy, and intercultural awareness. These outcomes should be embedded meaningfully within the task, not treated as add-ons. The assignment should give students the opportunity to apply these skills in ways that reflect real-world or personally relevant contexts.



Substantial and Central

A signature assignment should serve as a culminating task that reflects a substantial portion of the course in both student effort and grading weight. It is not a minor or supplemental activity but a central component of the course's learning experience and assessment.



Integrates Course Content and Broader Themes

It should illustrate something essential about the course's subject matter while also connecting it to broader social, civic, or interdisciplinary issues.



Requires Student Reflection

Intentional reflection prompts students to explain what they learned, how ideas connect, and how the experience relates to their goals or development. It deepens learning by fostering personal and academic insight.



Enables Assessment of General Education Outcomes

Signature assignments should be designed for direct assessment using the rubric derived from the AAC&U VALUE rubrics. These will be embedded in Canvas or you can create your own.

Additional Resources at [MavEd.unomaha.edu](https://maved.unomaha.edu)