

**Subject: University Learning Goals**

**Date:** August 31, 2009 2:39:13 PM EDT

**To:** "Brandeis Community" [broadcast-email@lists.brandeis.edu](mailto:broadcast-email@lists.brandeis.edu)

Dear Students, Faculty and Staff,

Our accrediting body, NEASC, reported in 2006 that Brandeis needed to work on a systematic, broad-based, and integrated approach to assessment of student learning. To address this, the Provost's Advisory Committee on Assessment of Student Learning was formed in spring 2007. Consisting of faculty, student life and academic staff, the committee agreed that they would take a holistic and integrated approach to student learning, both in and out of the classroom. A comprehensive website has been created, and we encourage you to visit <http://www.brandeis.edu/assessment/>.

For over a year, the committee researched learning goals at other institutions and created draft goals for Brandeis. Last fall, these draft goals were reviewed by many diverse groups on campus: Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Committee for the Support of Teaching, Department Chairs, University Advisory Committee, Admissions, Academic Services, Athletics, Student Life, Registrar, Financial Services, Roosevelt Fellows and Hiatt Advisors, Deans of the Graduate Professional Schools, Senior Administration, and joint subcommittees of the Board of Trustees. Last spring, the committee compiled the feedback and finalized learning goals for a Brandeis education, both undergraduate and graduate. The design team created a special graphic to express these goals visually on the website.

The complete text for these goals is attached, and we hope you will think about how your teaching, learning and support contribute to these goals. We realize that these goals will continue to evolve and that majors, centers, and administrative units will contribute differently to them.

All first-years and New Student Forum discussion and orientation leaders have received bookmarks with the logo and a summary of the goals. This is the first step in a plan to communicate these goals to the campus. We look forward to thinking with you this year about the learning experience at Brandeis and how these learning goals are fostered in the many departments across campus.

With warm regards for the beginning of the fall semester,

Jean Eddy  
Senior Vice President for Students and Enrollment

Marty Wyngaarden Krauss  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs