



# Curriculum Overview

CIT 609: Special Topics  
in Curriculum Design I

by Peter Brown



# Question 1

What is meant by the term  
curriculum?

Curriculum refers to a specific list of educational materials and activities that must be successfully completed in order to accomplish the goals set for learning.

(Wikipedia, 2008 September 10).

# Question 1

What is meant by the term curriculum?

Curriculum can refer to:

- ⇒ A unit of study
- ⇒ A course of study
- ⇒ A school year
- ⇒ Apprenticeship or certification program
- ⇒ A graduate or postgraduate degree

(Wikipedia, 2008 September 10).



## Question 2

What is the relationship between curriculum and instructions?

Instruction, the act of teaching, involves a systematic application of pedagogy to pass on a prescribed knowledge base. The curriculum is what defines which knowledge is addressed in any instruction.



## Question 2

What is the relationship between curriculum and instructions?

"Good teachers can translate information, good judgment, experience and wisdom into relevant knowledge that a student can understand, retain and pass to others."

(Wikipedia, 2008 September 12).

## Question 3

### What are the bases for curriculum planning?

- ⇒ A curriculum must be aligned with National, State and local content standards.  
(Florida Standards, 2008).

- ⇒ Assessment information helps planners make relevant curriculum decisions.  
(Airasian & Russell, 2008).

## Question 4

What criteria can be used to plan, develop, and implement curricula?

- ⇒ Instructional Goals
- ⇒ Learning Philosophies and Information Processing Theories
- ⇒ Learning Environment
- ⇒ Specific Learning Objectives
- ⇒ Student Prior Knowledge
- ⇒ Student Learning Styles
- ⇒ Instructional Strategies
- ⇒ Formative and Summative Assessments

(Smith & Ragan, 2005).

## Question 5

### How do values influence curriculum planning?

Values can influence who will be included in the curriculum goals.

The belief that learning is a universal right, has led to a focus in developing curriculum that meets the needs of every student.

(SIU, 1998).

## Question 5

### How do values influence curriculum planning?

Values influence what information will be included in the curriculum content.

The belief that strong civilizations should nurture and enable the potential of all of its citizens has led to the inclusion of culturally diversified curricular content.

(SIU, 1998).

## Question 6

What are some of the strongest challenges in meeting the needs for curriculum and the future?

Supporting public schools:

Government vouchers for private schools and the No Child Left Behind legislation has caused a budget crisis in public school districts.

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What are some of the strongest challenges in meeting the needs for curriculum and the future?

The needs of diversified populations:  
Teaching the curriculum in ways that are effective for a variety of students.

"... putting them into groups is not differentiation. But putting them into groups that are purposeful, based on their individual needs..."

(NEA, 2008).

## Question 6

What are some of the strongest challenges in meeting the needs for curriculum and the future?

Integrating Technology:

"Few policy-makers fully recognize the impact technology has in schools. Contributing to this problem is that educators are not sharing their success stories enough with their elected officials."

(ISTE).

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