

## **FOUR DIMENSIONS OF STUDENT LEARNING**

Missouri Department of Higher Education has identified common themes that encompass workplace readiness and general education. These are reflected in three of the dimensions of student learning:

1. **Workforce Readiness**-- Workforce readiness refers to a set of skills and abilities identified by academic and business leaders as important for success in any working environment. These include verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, critical thinking, and communication.
2. **Transfer Readiness**-- Transfer Readiness refers to prerequisite skills and abilities students must demonstrate to successfully transition to a four-year institution.
3. **Content Knowledge and Discipline-Specific Knowledge & Skills.** -- Content Knowledge and Discipline-Specific Knowledge and Skills are those that students “must acquire in order to be considered competent within that domain.”

Data may be assimilated across discipline-specific course clusters and the resulting compilation used to obtain a deeper understanding of student learning. This may also include professional certification examinations or degrees awarded.

4. **Soft skills (non-cognitive skills),** a fourth dimension of student learning is also important to student success and should be monitored.

“In today’s knowledge economy, it is not sufficient for a worker to possess adequate basic cognitive skills and discipline-specific competencies. The nature of work requires that the person be able to work in teams, be a creative problem solver, and communicate with a diverse set of colleagues. The measurement of skills and traits such as creativity, teamwork and persistence has become a major focus” (Dwyer et al, 2006).