PYRAMID PLUS

Pyramid Plus has several notable features: firstly, the pyramid graphic and metaphor provide a clear and distinctive way for students to understand, represent, and chart their progress through the Kent Core. Secondly, under Pyramid PLUS students earn a degree. PLUS: developing disciplinary and transferrable skills demanded by employers. PLUS: earning micro-credentials and badges that enhance a CV. PLUS: building a portfolio in Canvass that showcases the knowledge, and skills developed. PLUS: addressing a common theme through different disciplinary lenses. PLUS: addressing a big question or problem relevant to their lives by integrating learning from thematic courses specifically, and other courses in Pyramid Plus more generally.

In Level 1 students take courses focused on the development of foundational skills. Skills necessary for careers in their subject areas but also transferrable skills required throughout life and in every workplace. Surveys of students show they want to learn skills essential for future careers. Employers also report that they look at skills rather than degrees when hiring. Combined together, level one courses address OT36 requirements on numeracy; literacy; the social and behavioral sciences; and the arts and humanities; as well as courses that meet the (OT24) associate degree requirement. In Level 2 students take 4 courses - one each in the natural sciences; the social and behavioral sciences; and the arts and humanities respectively, and a fourth course that meets the OT36 requirement for a second writing course. The intention here is for subject specific course at this level to include an element that highlights the relevant literatures and connections with other disciplines – to incorporate a STEAM philosophy in at least some elements of subject specific courses. In Level 3 students take two classes that address a common theme, albeit from different disciplinary perspectives (with an option for faculty to propose multidisciplinary thematic courses too). The aim here is to provide students with cross-disciplinary knowledge and skills that can be applied to integrative analysis of a common topic. In level 4 students take one course that addresses a big question or problem. Students will be encouraged (though not required) to take a course that is an extension of the thematic courses taken at level three. This will provide an opportunity to not only integrate cross-disciplinary knowledge and skills but apply them to a question or problem relevant to the lived lives of students.

Overall Pyramid Plus provides a vehicle to address the big six and distinctiveness requirements and provide students with the foundational skills necessary to be engaged members of society; be able to integrate knowledge and think critically about the challenges as a community we face now; and in the future. Above all Pyramid Plus equips students with a foundational knowledge and skills to succeed at university but also in all aspects of work and life after university.