

THE HUMAN CONDITION, CULTURES, AND SOCIETIES

Following their four-year course of study at the Air Force Academy, our graduates will be required to interact successfully with a wide range of individuals, to include those representing cultures and societies different from their own. To foster their success in these interactions, the Academy has created a three-phased approach to help cadets better understand the human condition, cultures, and societies. The first phase has to do with knowing oneself, where cadets are required to examine their own identity as human beings, citizens in a republic, and officer-statesmen in the United States Air Force. The second phase has to do with knowing others, where cadets begin to examine the identity of others, to include those from cultures and societies different from their own. Each of these first two phases is necessary to accomplish the third phase, which involves constructive engagement with others. Being able to prudently interact with individuals from different milieus resides at the heart of intercultural or cross-cultural competence and includes both domestic and international environments.

USAFA GRADUATES WILL BE ABLE TO¹:

Know Oneself

Proficiency 1: Describe key elements of their own identity as human beings, citizens of a republic, and officer-statesmen in the United States Air Force.

Proficiency 2: Explain historical, cultural, societal, and political developments that have shaped their own identity.

Proficiency 3: Distinguish between objective (universally true) and subjective (biased) elements of their own identity.

Proficiency 4: Defend or critique both objective and subjective elements of their own identity.

Know Others

Proficiency 5: Describe key elements of an identity different from one's own.

Proficiency 6: Explain historical, cultural, social, and political developments that have shaped another's identity.

Proficiency 7: Distinguish between objective (universally true) and subjective (biased) elements of another's identity.

Proficiency 8: Defend or critique both objective and subjective elements of another's identity.

Constructive Engagement

Proficiency 9: Explain the uniqueness and interconnections of various peoples, cultures, and societies in their appropriate spatial and temporal contexts.

Proficiency 10: Respond prudently to various cultural and social scenarios, settings, and situations, whether in the classroom or in the field.

¹ These proficiencies incorporated elements of the American Association of Colleges and Universities Essential Learning Outcomes (www.aacu.org/leap/essential-learning-outcomes).

