Quantitative Thinking at Macalester College

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Definition of Quantitative Thinking

1. Describing the world quantitatively.
2. Evaluating sources of data.
3. Association and causation.
4. Trade-offs.
5. Uncertainty and risk.
6. Estimation, modeling, and scale.
Four stages:

1. Planning (2001–02)
2. Building (2002–05)
3. Adoption (2005)
Planning (2001–02)

• Recognized need

• Willingness to reconsider distribution requirements

• Support from president, provost, deans

• Broad, interdisciplinary participation

• Enthusiasm
Building (2002–05)

• Support from president, provost, deans
• Money
• Broad, interdisciplinary participation
• Continual formative assessment
• Flexibility
• Determinations
Adoption (2005)

• Support from president, provost, deans

• Broad, interdisciplinary participation

• Plans for meaningful summative assessment

• Flexibility

• Determination
Maintenance (2007→?)

• Support from president, provost, deans

• Broad, interdisciplinary participation, especially in the development of new leadership

• Ongoing summative assessment