

# General Education

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## GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING GOALS

### 1. Broad Knowledge of the Liberal Arts & Sciences

Students will examine the world and its people from various points of view. They will learn about ideas and beliefs that have guided human beings and shaped civilization for thousands of years. *Students will:*

- Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of the human past, including the historical development of human knowledge in global contexts.
- Compare and contrast differing philosophical and cultural perspectives.
- Describe and analyze core concepts and theories within the natural sciences and apply the methods of the natural sciences in order to formulate answers to important questions.
- Describe and analyze core concepts and theories within the arts and humanities and apply the techniques of the arts and humanities in order to formulate answers to important questions.
- Describe and analyze core concepts and theories within the social and behavioral sciences and apply the methods of the social and behavioral sciences in order to formulate answers to important questions.

### 2. Critical Thinking

Students will gain the ability to use knowledge, claims of evidence, and content to reason ethically and reach conclusions, as well as to innovate in imaginative ways. These steps are equally applicable to different kinds of problems such as scientific theory development and testing, ethical problem solving, and innovation. *Students will:*

- Define, analyze, and formulate solutions to problems by synthesizing core concepts within and across disciplines.
- Assess the accuracy and validity of findings and conclusions.
- Comprehend and examine how one thinks, reasons, and makes value judgments.
- Demonstrate sustained intellectual curiosity through exploration of emerging issues.

### 3. Effective Communication

Students will learn to communicate effectively. Communication is a process by which we assign and convey meaning in an attempt to create shared understanding. Human communication facilitates insight, collaboration, the exchange of ideas, and the progress of culture. *Students will:*

- Comprehend and manage basic communicative technologies, tools, and strategies in order to express ideas and facts in written, oral, quantitative, and visual formats.
- Comprehend, interpret, analyze, and synthesize the written, oral, quantitative, and visual communication of others.

### 4. Information Literacy Skills

Students will develop their information literacy skills, including an understanding of the nature, organization, and methods of access and evaluation of both electronic and traditional resources. *Students will:*

- Identify the nature, extent, and sources of information needed in order to access information effectively and efficiently.
- Critically evaluate information and information sources.
- Use information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose.
- Identify and analyze the economic, social, legal, and ethical issues surrounding the access and use of information.
- Identify and use the following as appropriate: content-specific tools, software, and simulations for research, information analysis, problem-solving, and decision-making in content learning.

### 5. Quantitative Reasoning

Students will analyze and communicate appropriately with mathematical and symbolic concepts. They will critically evaluate the quantitative and symbolic information used to represent and draw inference regarding problems. *Students will:*

- Gain the ability to visualize abstractions and apply them to a problem.
- Model physical and natural phenomena and assess the validity of a model, make predictions from the model, and draw conclusions based on that model.
- Understand numbers, analyze uncertainty, comprehend the properties of shapes, and investigate how things change over time.
- Identify and apply quantitative principles and methods in the solution of problems and draw and evaluate conclusions in order to check the logic and validity of statements and models.

### 6. Diversity and Globalization

Students will study groups, cultures, and societies as they interact and challenge each other. They will be encouraged to reflect critically and consciously in order to gain insight into how cultural identities and experiences shape individual perspectives of the world and influence interaction with people from different backgrounds. *Students will:*

- Identify cultural differences and examine how these differences influence cross-cultural understanding and conflict.
- Recognize and evaluate the implications of various social structures and the ways people are grouped by such characteristics as status, race, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation.
- Identify and analyze sources of cultural bias and prejudice and develop ways to reduce these and other forms of biases and prejudices.

- d. Describe and analyze the concepts of globalization and transnationalism in order to evaluate the interdependent nature of the world in which we live.

**7. Responsibilities of Citizenship**

Students will critically explore, evaluate, and reflect upon their own lives, careers, and interests in relation to the political process and the general welfare of society as a whole. *Students will:*

- a. Describe and analyze democratic political ideals and the various understandings of rights and obligations that citizens may be said to have in their own communities.
- b. Describe and analyze one's own and others' perceptions regarding responsibility for society's moral / ethical well-being.