



# General Education Rubric

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General education is a coherent pattern of courses intended to serve three purposes: Taken as a whole, the program is intended to strengthen students

Through this program, students will acquire the ability to think and communicate clearly and effectively both orally and in writing; to use mathematics and other symbolic systems; to understand the modes of inquiry of the major disciplines; to appreciate the structures and processes of the natural environment; to be aware of other cultures and times; to achieve insights by thinking about ethical and social problems; to understand and appreciate the history of US culture and its governing institutions.

### CRITERIA FOR GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES

Upon completion of the general education course pattern, in addition to the area-specific outcomes, students should be able to:

- identify, explain, and analyze the core concepts and methods of the major discipline in which the course is included;
- identify, explain, and analyze the influences and contributions of the specific discipline to other disciplines, culture, human history, and our quest to understand the universe;
- organize, integrate, and critically analyze information within the course, using these skills to generate and evaluate alternative perspectives; and
- prepare students to lead enriched lives in a multicultural society

### CATEGORIES OF GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES

#### General Education Categories and Requirements

##### A. Physical and Life Sciences

After successfully completing courses in this category, students will understand the scientific method and its role in research, analyze problems in a structured way, and develop and employ strategies for solutions using scientific principles. Students will understand the empirical bases for current scientific theories, how those theories develop and change, and how they explain the natural world. Students also will appreciate the influence of scientific knowledge on the development of civilization.

##### B. Social and Behavioral Studies

After successfully completing courses in this category, students will understand the theories and be able to employ and evaluate the methods of social science inquiry. Students will be able to analyze and critically assess ideas about the individual, social groups, institutions and society, as well as their interrelationships, structure, and function. Students will be able to use this knowledge to develop a capacity for self-understanding and to understand contemporary issues, conflicts, problems, and their origins.

##### C. Arts and Humanities

After successfully completing courses in this category, students will recognize the value of the great works of the human imagination in a broad context and understand their contribution to human culture. They will be able to analyze and appraise cultural/artistic achievements in verbal and/or non-verbal forms. Since language acquisition is a door to understanding the arts and humanities of other cultures, students who acquire second language skills also fulfill the Category C requirement.

##### D1. Communication in English

After successfully completing courses in this category, students will write or orally deliver effective expository and argumentative discourse with a focus on inquiry as well as persuasion. Students will be able to read and listen critically in order to comprehend and communicate their understanding of the central ideas and rhetorical techniques in the assigned texts. They also will be able to demonstrate an ethical use of various rhetorical techniques in their written and/or spoken work.

##### D2. Analytical Thinking

After successfully completing courses in this category, students will be able to construct and analyze statements in a formal symbolic system, and understand the relationship between the symbolic system and its various applications in the real world. Students will also appreciate the strengths and limitations of the system, its logical structure, and its derivation.

##### E. American Institutions

After successfully completing courses in this category, students will understand the impact of social, political, and economic forces in the historical development of the U.S. Students will be able to employ interpretative skills to analyze historical causes and effects. Students will have an enhanced understanding of the interrelationship among the branches of our government over time. Students will also develop an understanding of U.S. cultural and social diversity, and ethnic, gender, and class conflict.