

2008 GETF General Education Purpose Statement
DRAFT

The purpose of the General Education requirement is to stretch students' minds, broaden their experiences, sharpen their critical thinking and evaluation skills, make connections through shared experiences, and prepare them for:

- Their college experiences and subsequent professional training
- Their careers and productive lives
- Community engagement and informed citizenship
- A diverse and rapidly changing world
- A lifetime of learning

The General Education curriculum does this by engaging students in:

- Fundamental questions, ideas, and methods of analysis in the humanities and fine arts, social sciences, mathematics, and natural and physical sciences;
- The application of these methods of analysis to real world problems and contexts;
- Creative, analytical, quantitative, and critical thinking through inquiry, problem solving and synthesis;
- Pluralistic perspective-taking and awareness of the relationship among culture, self, and others;
- Understanding and evaluating the consequences of one's choices and the implications of one's actions.
- Opportunities to develop and practice the skills of critical thinking, reasoning, and communication, including:
 - Working with ambiguity and multiple perspectives;
 - Communicating persuasively and effectively orally and in writing;
 - Working effectively and collaboratively with diverse groups;
 - Developing information and technological literacy.