

General Education Purpose Statement

The purpose of the General Education requirement is to stretch students' minds, broaden their 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 and integration 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, communication, and integration of knowledge and perspectives, including:
 - Communicating persuasively and effectively orally and in writing;
 - Working effectively and collaboratively (in groups, across perspectives);
 - Developing information and technological literacy.

This Purpose Statement was developed by the General Education Task Force (2007-2009) and approved by the Faculty Senate in May 2009. It is a restatement of the [original 1985 purposes and learning objectives of General Education](#).

The learning objectives of Gen Ed can be organized within the following learning outcome categories:

Content	Critical Thinking	Communication	Connections
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fundamental questions, ideas, and methods of analysis in the humanities and fine arts, social sciences, mathematics, and natural and physical sciences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Creative, analytical, quantitative, & critical thinking through inquiry, problem solving, & synthesis ▪ Pluralistic perspective-taking and awareness of the relationship among culture, self, and others ▪ Developing information and technological literacy** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communicating persuasively and effectively orally and in writing ▪ Working effectively and collaboratively (in groups, across perspectives)** ▪ Developing information and technological literacy** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The application and integration of these methods of analysis to real world problems and contexts ▪ 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

** objectives present in more than one Gen Ed category

From the Gen Ed website: <http://www.umass.edu/gened>