General Studies Learning Outcomes

PROGRAM-LEVEL OUTCOMES

(GS courses must meet at least one program-level outcome)

Students can:
1) Evaluate information appropriate to the task.
2) Apply principles of critical thinking to demonstrate integrative\(^1\) learning.
3) Communicate effectively in spoken form.
4) Communicate effectively in written form.
5) Analyze cultural issues within a global context.
6) Evaluate in context significant concepts relating to democracy.

I. FOUNDATIONAL CORE

Written Communication outcomes (Courses must meet all outcomes)

Students can:
1) Discern a writer’s argument or purpose.
2) Use appropriate sources responsibly.
3) Use context-appropriate conventions of written English.
4) Form and support a coherent position on an issue.
5) Write in a manner appropriate to the audience and context.

Math outcomes (Courses must meet all outcomes)

Students can:
1) Apply mathematical logic to solve equations.
2) Describe problems using mathematical language.
3) Solve problems given in mathematical language using mathematical or statistical tools.
4) Interpret numerical data or graphical information using mathematical concepts and methods.
5) Construct logical arguments using mathematical language and concepts.
6) Use mathematical software effectively.

Oral Communication outcomes (Courses must meet all outcomes)

Students can:
1) Evaluate appropriate sources.
2) Utilize effective verbal and non-verbal expressions.
3) Deliver effective speeches appropriate to the context.
4) Orally present a coherent position on an issue.
5) Assess oral argumentation as a critical consumer.

Democracy in Perspective outcomes (Courses must meet all outcomes)

Students can:
1) Explain the roles that democratic concepts, including individual rights, play in a just democracy.
2) Analyze how citizens engage in democracy.
3) Evaluate democratic practices across different contexts (such as settings, time, socioeconomic conditions, cultures, and political boundaries).

\(^1\) Refers to learning that is cross-disciplinary, involving multiple theories, contexts, and methodologies.
II. PORTAL

Portal outcomes *(Courses must meet all outcomes)*
Students can:
1) Analyze critical issues confronting the individual and society, including a global context.
2) Interpret an argument through engaged discourse within the discipline.
3) Construct a cogent argument pertaining to the course topic.

III. DISTRIBUTION
*(Distribution courses must meet learning outcome #1 and a majority of the remaining outcomes in their respective category.)*

Aesthetics outcomes
Students can:
1) Articulate the relevance of the Aesthetics course to their general education.
2) Explain the significance of a work of art within its context (i.e. cultural, historical).
3) Identify the structure of a work of art by describing its elements.
4) Interpret a work of art using concepts appropriate to its medium.
5) Distinguish between works of art from various time periods and cultures.

Humanities outcomes
Students can:
1) Articulate the relevance of the Humanities course to their general education.
2) Analyze primary sources using methodologies appropriate to disciplines in the Humanities.
3) Create coherent positions based on the interpretation of primary sources.
4) Communicate effectively using the modes of discourse appropriate to the discipline.
5) Evaluate primary sources in cultural, historical, literary, or philosophical contexts.

Social Sciences outcomes
Students can:
1) Articulate the relevance of the Social Science course to their general education.
2) Describe basic concepts and methods used in a social science discipline.
3) Demonstrate how basic concepts and methods from a social science discipline explain individual or group behavior.
4) Evaluate the connection between social science research and social or political policy.
5) Apply concepts and methods from a social science discipline to social science research.

Natural Sciences outcomes
Students can:
1) Articulate the relevance of the Natural Science course to their general education.
2) Explain how knowledge of natural science is applicable to their lives.
3) Apply appropriate scientific methodology within one of the natural sciences.
4) Evaluate the validity and limitations of scientific theories and claims.
5) *(Required for lab courses only)* Analyze scientific data acquired through laboratory experiences in one of the natural sciences.
Analytical & Quantitative Thought outcomes
Students can:
1) Articulate the relevance of the Analytical & Quantitative Thought course to their general education.
2) Express formal relationships using various forms of analytical reasoning.
3) Define problems using techniques appropriate to the discipline.
4) Solve problems using techniques appropriate to the discipline.
5) Draw appropriate inferences from data in various forms.
6) Evaluate analytical results for reasonableness.

Wellness outcomes
Students can:
1) Articulate the relevance of the Wellness course to their general education.
2) Describe components of wellness.
3) Recognize the potential consequences of personal choices.
4) Analyze the roles of society in wellness promotion.
5) Develop an action strategy for wellness.

IV. CAPSTONE

Capstone outcomes  *(Courses must meet all outcomes)*
Students can:
1) Evaluate information from more than one academic discipline.
2) Formulate logical connections between disciplines as they relate to the topic.
3) Employ the approach of more than one academic discipline in completing a Capstone project.
4) Synthesize knowledge related to the topic in completing a Capstone project.
5) Communicate effectively in the medium chosen for the Capstone project.