

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 integrative¹ 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.