General Education Philosophy

As citizens of the world, our students will be confronting complex personal, social, cultural, and political issues. Our purpose is to prepare them to thrive in this world. Students will need a wide variety of skills, understandings, sensitivities, and perspectives from all the academic disciplines: Natural Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences, and the Humanities and Fine Arts. They will need to understand the basic principles of these academic disciplines, their methods of inquiry, their history, and impact on society, and their relationships to each other.

Our students will also need a set of skills that transcend the traditional disciplines. They will need to think critically, to communicate effectively, to reason using quantitative models, and to maintain their physical and mental well being.

It is our belief that completion of the College of the Siskiyous' General Education requirements will help to prepare our graduates for life as informed, active, and ethical citizens of this multicultural world.

General Education Student Learning Outcomes

Area A: English Composition / Information Competency
Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1) Use the stages of the writing process to construct effective, coherent paragraphs and documents.
2) Edit documents for style appropriate for the writing situation.
4) Use the stages of the research process to construct focused and successful research strategies.
5) Locate and evaluate for credibility information provided by the library, Internet resources, and other sources.
6) Demonstrate an understanding of the ethical and legal principles surrounding information and information technology, including plagiarism and copyright.
7) Organize and integrate researched information into documents by properly using quotations, paraphrases, and summaries and by accurately citing sources using recognized documentation formats (e.g. MLA or APA).

Area B: Mathematics
Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1) Students should be able to setup, manipulate, graph, solve, or apply standard algebraic expressions and equations.

Area C: Natural Science
Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1) Determine whether or not a question can be addressed by science and, if so, outline the steps a scientist would follow to develop and test a proposed explanation.
2) Demonstrate basic knowledge of the discipline’s major facts and concepts that shape humanity’s understanding of the natural world.
3) Demonstrate an ability to apply scientific principles to make informed decisions about matters of science and technology that are likely to confront an educated citizen.
4) Correctly set-up, solve, and interpret the results of a variety of computational and non-computational problems relevant to the natural sciences by applying the language, critical thinking, and mathematical skills acquired in previous courses.
Area D: Humanities
Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:
   1) Demonstrate an awareness of the ways in which people through the ages and in different cultures have responded to themselves and the world around them in artistic and cultural creation.
   2) Demonstrate an understanding of the interrelationship between the creative arts, the humanities, and themselves.
   3) Demonstrate the ability to analyze and appreciate works of philosophical, historical, literary, aesthetic, and cultural importance.

Area E: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:
   1) Understand the principles, perspectives and methods of inquiry used by the social and behavioral sciences.
   2) Critically explain how people act and have acted in response to their societies.
   3) Demonstrate an understanding of how societies and social subgroups operate.
   4) Demonstrate and understand social and behavioral sciences research methodology and effectively communicate research results and conclusions.

Area F: Communication and Analytical Thinking
Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:
   1) Demonstrate the relationship between language and logic by using evaluative thought processes.
   2) Use elementary inductive and deductive processes to solve problems.
   3) Analyze situations presented to an educated citizen and recognize common logical errors or fallacies.
   4) Develop clear and precise expression of ideas in whatever symbol system the student uses.

Area G: Wellness
Upon successful completion of the course(s), the student should be able to:
   1) Analyze the relationship between daily healthy living practices and lifelong wellness.
   2) Demonstrate knowledge of the major facts and concepts of physical fitness.
   3) Demonstrate practical techniques for assessing one’s own fitness status.
   4) Participate in correctly performed activities designed to improve or maintain physical fitness.
   5) Compare and Contrast the potential risks as well as benefits associated with exercise.

Area H: Reading Competency
Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:
   1) Adjust reading rate according to purpose and difficulty of materials.
   2) Use different context clues to understand the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary.
   3) Locate and identify topics, topic sentences, central point, and major and minor supporting details.
   4) Identify the implied main idea of a reading selection.
   5) Identify and locate transitions and patterns of organization in reading selections.
   6) Make accurate inferences and distinguish the difference between facts and opinions.
   7) Identify the purpose, tone, and bias of a reading selection.
   8) Recognize the points and supports of an argument, inadequate support, and irrelevant information in a reading selection.

Area I: Diversity
Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:
   1) Identify and explain diverse cultural customs, beliefs, traditions or life styles or to contrast the experience of a historically under-represented group with that of the dominant culture.
   2) Demonstrate an understanding of personal, social, or historical biases and prejudices.
Curriculum Committee  
College of the Siskiyous  

Faculty Reviewers and Curriculum Committee Representatives for COSGE Course Proposals  
2009-10 Academic Year  

8/19/09  

Area A – English Composition  
Faculty Reviewers: Susan Dunn, Steve Reynolds, Michael Tischler, and Michelle Van Aalst.  

Area B – Mathematics  
Faculty Reviewers: Kevin Broussard, Cheryl Coppin, Barbara Odegard, Ryan Petifils, and Jerry Pompa.  

Area C – Natural Science  
Faculty Reviewers: Dave Clarke, Bill Hirt, Jenny Jensen, Mike Read, and Allison Varty.  

Area D – Humanities  

Area E – Social and Behavioral Sciences  

Area F – Communication and Analytical Thinking  
Faculty Reviewers: Shawn Abbott, Jesse Cecil, Maria Fernandez, Mike Graves, Tom Murdock, Steve Reynolds, and Jayne Turk.  

Area G – Wellness  
Faculty Reviewers: Billy Hefflinger, Tim Frisbie, Tom Powers, Mike Paddack, Dennis Roberts, and Eric Young.  

Area H – Reading Competency  
Faculty Reviewer: Marlys Cordoba.  

Area I – Diversity  

Source: Teaching assignments of spring 2007 and fall 2007 full-time faculty.