

STUDENT COMPETENCIES

The faculty has defined six competencies that inform degree program and general education learning outcomes. The general education courses as well as degree requirements will help students develop and improve their skills in six critical areas.

No one course will cover all the competencies. Assignments and tasks will be embedded into the course objectives of many different courses at different levels of the curricula to provide students the opportunity to learn and demonstrate mastery of these competencies.

Competency in Communication: College graduates should be able to write, speak, read, and listen effectively for a variety of purposes and audiences. Whether their aim is personal, academic, or professional, they should be able to communicate ideas and information effectively.

Competency in Quantitative Skills: A quantitatively literate person is capable of analytical and mathematical reasoning. This individual can read and understand quantitative arguments, follow logical development and mathematical methods, solve mathematical and quantitative problems, perform mathematical calculations, express functional relationships, and apply mathematical methods. As a minimum, a student should know the mathematical techniques covered in the general education mathematical requirements.

Competency in Information Literacy: Competency in information literacy combines the skills of being able to

1. identify needed information
2. locate and access the information
3. analyze and evaluate the content
4. integrate and communicate the information; and
5. evaluate the product and the process. Reading and writing literacies plus traditional library skills provide the foundation to access the vast availability of electronic information.

Competency in Information Technology: Students should have the knowledge to make efficient use of computers and information technology in their personal and professional lives because basic technological knowledge and skills apply to all fields and disciplines. Necessary skills range from a basic ability to use a keyboard through word processing concepts, spreadsheet and graphics applications to telecommunications, conferencing, and electronic mail technologies.

Competency in Professional Behavior: Professional behavior is expected of college students. Success in professional life depends on many behaviors, including responsibility, good work habits, ethical decision making, recognition of the value of community service, and successful human relations.

Competency in Critical Thinking: Competency in critical thinking reflects proficiency in modes of thought: conceptualizing, analyzing, synthesizing, evaluating, interpreting, and/or applying ideas and information. A critical thinker can approach a concept from multiple perspectives and frames of reference, compare and contrast ideas or models, and demonstrate a willingness to take intellectual risks. A critical thinker knows not only how but also when to apply particular

modes of thinking. It should be noted that problem solving and analytical approaches may vary from discipline to discipline.