

Proposed General Education Goals and Learning Objectives

In 1996 SACS asked the University to clarify the goals and learning objectives of general education and to assess the General Education Program. In Fall, 2002 President Glasser directed the University General Education Committee (UGEC) to review and clarify the goals and learning objectives in preparation for assessing the General Education Program over the next two years. The UGEC proposes the following goals and measurable learning objectives for the General Education Program.

General Education Goals

The General Education Program promotes learning that is central to intellectual pursuits and that will enable students to make informed choices about matters of public and personal significance in a diverse, democratic society and global community. The program provides students with the knowledge that informed, independent thinkers need in order to ask good questions, evaluate answers, and make informed decisions. After completing the General Education Program at EKU, students will be able to:

1. Communicate effectively by applying skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening and through appropriate use of information technology.
2. Use appropriate methods of critical thinking and quantitative reasoning to examine issues and to identify solutions.
3. Analyze the historical and social contexts of cultural, economic, political, religious, and scientific developments.
4. Analyze the social and behavioral influences that explain how people relate to each other, to institutions, and to communities.
5. Analyze the fundamental natural processes of the world and the interactions of humans and their environment.
6. Analyze the values, cultural context, and aesthetic qualities of artistic, literary, philosophic, and/or religious works.
7. Distinguish the methods that underlie the search for knowledge in the arts, humanities, natural sciences, history, and social and behavioral sciences.

8. Integrate knowledge that will deepen their understanding of, and will inform their own choices about, issues of personal and public importance.

Measurable Learning Objectives

The learning objectives for the critical thinking skills expressed in goal two, for distinguishing the different methods of inquiry expressed in goal seven, and for integrating knowledge expressed in goal eight are embedded in the learning objectives of each of the following areas.

- I. Written Communication – Students will achieve the goal for written communication by:
 1. Demonstrating rhetorical knowledge by:
 - a. Focusing on a specific purpose for a defined audience.
 - b. Defining a specific topic through a clearly stated thesis.
 - c. Constructing an effective discourse organization.
 - d. Providing adequate and relevant supporting evidence, appropriate documentation, and clear and valid assumptions and conclusions.
 2. Applying critical thinking, reading, and writing by:
 - a. Understanding a writing assignment as a series of tasks, including research, understood as finding, evaluating, analyzing, summarizing, and synthesizing appropriate outside sources.
 - b. Integrating their own ideas with those of others.
 3. Demonstrating control of written language by:
 - a. Controlling sentence structures appropriate to academic writing.
 - b. Controlling grammatical conventions of written Standard English, including word forms, punctuation, and spelling.

- II. Oral Communication – Students will achieve the goal for oral communication by:
1. Applying critical thinking by:
 - a. Utilizing various forms of technology to effectively research and organize information required for message production and delivery.
 - b. Adapting oral communication styles to appropriate contexts.
 - c. Evaluating self and others' communication skills.
 2. Demonstrating command of communication skills by:
 - a. Successfully implementing effective verbal delivery skills related to the context.
 - b. Successfully implementing effective nonverbal delivery skills related to the context.
 3. Demonstrating other-oriented perspective by:
 - a. Writing and articulating ethical issues inherent in the message.
 - b. Adhering to standards of ethical communication in presenting one's views.
 - c. Writing and articulating messages appropriate for various cultures and groups.
- III. Quantitative Reasoning – Students will achieve the goal for quantitative reasoning by:
1. Using mathematical methods to state and solve quantitative problems, including those stated in verbal form.
 2. Using numerical and graphical data to make reasonable and valid conclusions.
 3. Applying mathematical methods to real life problems.
- IV. History – Students will achieve the goal for historical knowledge by:
1. Demonstrating relevant perspective, rooted in time and place, in the analysis of historical sources.
 2. Demonstrating an understanding of the interactions of social, cultural, political, religious, economic, scientific and/or technological developments as factors in historical change.

3. Building and clearly communicating an argument on the basis of historical evidence and documentation.
 4. Demonstrating ability to understand change over time and the significance and effects of historical events and developments.
- V. Social and Behavioral Sciences – Students will achieve the goal for knowledge of the social and behavioral sciences in at least one of the basic social sciences by:
1. Demonstrating an understanding of the methods by which social scientists gather data and make conclusions.
 2. Explaining the major concepts and fundamental processes basic to the social sciences.
 3. Applying the principles and theories of the social sciences to make reasonable and valid conclusions about matters of personal and public importance.
- VI. Natural Science – Students will achieve the goal for knowledge of the natural sciences by:
1. Demonstrating an understanding of the methods by which humans gather data and make conclusions in biological and physical sciences.
 2. Explaining the major concepts and fundamental processes of biological and physical sciences.
 3. Applying the principles and theories of biological and physical sciences to make reasonable and valid conclusions.
 4. Applying scientific knowledge to examine and address issues of personal and public importance.
- VII. Arts and Humanities – Students will achieve the goal for knowledge of the arts and humanities by:
1. Reflecting critically upon the ideas and values of one's own and other cultures by exploring creative and intellectual works.
 2. Analyzing cultural values and ethical issues expressed in artistic, literary, philosophical, and/or religious works.
 3. Analyzing the aesthetic qualities of artistic, literary, philosophical, and/or religious works.