

**COLLEGES OF THE ARTS AND SCIENCES (ASC)
GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM
LEARNING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

In the Program of General Education, students will take coursework in several areas of study to achieve basic skills, competencies, and breadth of knowledge expected of an Arts and Sciences college-educated graduate. Learning outcomes students should achieve through coursework in various categories of the General Education Curriculum (GEC) are described below.

SKILLS

Writing and Related Skills coursework across disciplines develops students' skills in writing, reading, critical thinking, and oral expression. Expected outcomes are:

- Students apply basic skills in expository writing.
- Students demonstrate critical thinking through written and oral expression.
- Students retrieve and use written information analytically and effectively.

Quantitative and Logical Skills coursework develops students' quantitative literacy and logical reasoning, including the ability to identify valid arguments, use mathematical models, draw conclusions, and critically evaluate results based on data. Expected outcomes are:

- **Basic Computational Skills.** Students demonstrate computational skills and familiarity with algebra and geometry, and can apply these skills to practical problems.
- **Mathematical and Logical Analysis.** Students comprehend mathematical concepts and methods adequate to construct valid arguments, and understand inductive and deductive reasoning, scientific inference, and general problem solving.
- **Data Analysis.** Students understand basic concepts of statistics and probability, comprehend and use common statistical methods for analyzing data, recognize the role of statistics in designing and reporting research, and make and critically evaluate statistical conclusions.

Foreign Language coursework develops students' skills in communication across ethnic, cultural, ideological, and national boundaries, and helps students develop an understanding of other cultures and patterns of thought. Expected outcomes are:

- Students demonstrate basic skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing in a language other than their native language.
- Students describe cultural differences in countries other than their own, and demonstrate an appreciation of these differences.

BREADTH

Natural Science coursework fosters students' understanding of the principles, theories and methods of modern science, the relationship between science and technology, and the effects of science and technology on the environment. Expected outcomes are:

- Students understand the basic facts, principles, theories and methods of modern science.
- Students learn key events in the history of science.
- Students provide examples of the inter-dependence of scientific and technological developments.
- Students discuss social and philosophical implications of scientific discoveries and understand the potential of science and technology to address problems of the contemporary world.

Social Science coursework helps students understand human behavior and cognition, and the structures of human societies, cultures and institutions. Expected outcomes are:

- Students understand the theories and methods of scientific inquiry as they are applied to the studies of individuals, groups, organizations, and societies.
- Students comprehend human differences and similarities in various psychological, social, cultural, economic, geographic, and political contexts.
- Students develop abilities to comprehend and assess individual and social values, and recognize their importance in social problem solving and policy making.

Arts and Humanities coursework develops students' capacities to evaluate significant writing and works of art, and for aesthetic response and judgment; interpretation and evaluation; critical listening, reading, seeing, thinking, and writing; and experiencing the arts and reflecting on that experience. Expected outcomes are:

- Students develop abilities to be enlightened observers or active participants in the visual, spatial, musical, theatrical, rhetorical, or written arts.
- Students describe and interpret achievement in the arts and literature.
- Students explain how works of art and literature express social and cultural issues.

HISTORICAL STUDY

Historical Study coursework develops students' knowledge of how past events influence today's society and help them understand how humans view themselves. Expected outcomes are:

- Students acquire a perspective on history and an understanding of the factors that shape human activity.
- Students display knowledge about the origins and nature of contemporary issues and develop a foundation for future comparative understanding.
- Students think, speak, and write critically about primary and secondary historical sources by examining diverse interpretations of past events and ideas in their historical contexts.

DIVERSITY

Social Diversity in the United States coursework fosters students' understanding of the pluralistic nature of institutions, society, and culture in the United States. Expected outcomes are:

- Students describe the roles of such categories as race, gender, class, ethnicity, and religion in the institutions and cultures of the United States.
- Students recognize the role of social diversity in shaping their own attitudes and values.

International Issues coursework help students become educated, productive, and principled citizens of their nation and the world. Expected outcomes are:

- Students exhibit an understanding of political, economic, cultural, physical, and social differences among the nations of the world, including a specific examination of non-Western culture.

CAPSTONE

Issues of the Contemporary World thematic upper-division course work, drawing upon multiple disciplines, enriches students' experiences of the contemporary world. Expected outcomes are:

- Students synthesize and apply knowledge from diverse disciplines to contemporary issues.
- Students write about or conduct research on the contemporary world.