

General Education

General education encompasses the common knowledge, skills and attitudes required by each individual to be effective as a person, worker, consumer and citizen. Programs of study in transfer curricula and occupational technical programs are designed to promote the achievement of the following general education competencies established by the Virginia Community College System. Degree graduates will demonstrate the ability to:

Area 1: Communication

- 1.1 understand and interpret complex materials
- 1.2 assimilate, organize, develop, and present an idea formally and informally
- 1.3 use Standard English
- 1.4 use appropriate verbal and non-verbal responses in interpersonal relations and group discussions
- 1.5 use listening skills
- 1.6 recognize the role of culture in communication

Area 2: Critical Thinking

- 2.1 discriminate among degrees of credibility, accuracy, and reliability of inferences drawn from given data
- 2.2 recognize parallels, assumptions, or presuppositions in any given source of information
- 2.3 evaluate the strengths and relevance of arguments on a particular question or issue
- 2.4 weigh evidence and decide if generalizations or conclusions based on the given data are warranted
- 2.5 determine whether certain conclusions or consequences are supported by the information provided
- 2.6 use problem solving skills

Area 3: Cultural and Social Understanding

- 3.1 assess the impact that social institutions have on individuals and culture—past, present, and future
- 3.2 describe their own as well as others' personal ethical systems and values within social institutions
- 3.3 recognize the impact that arts and humanities have upon individuals and cultures
- 3.4 recognize the role of language in social and cultural contexts
- 3.5 recognize the interdependence of distinctive world-wide social, economic, geo-political, and cultural systems

Area 4: Information Literacy

- 4.1 determine the nature and extent of the information needed
- 4.2 access needed information effectively and efficiently
- 4.3 evaluate information and its sources critically and incorporate selected information into his or her knowledge base
- 4.4 use information effectively, individually or as a member of a group, to accomplish a specific purpose

- 4.5 understand many of the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information and access and use information ethically and legally

Area 5: Personal Development

- 5.1 develop and/or refine personal wellness goals
5.2 develop and/or enhance the knowledge, skills, and understanding to make informed academic, social, personal, career, and interpersonal decisions

Area 6: Quantitative Reasoning

- 6.1 use logical and mathematical reasoning within the context of various disciplines
6.2 interpret and use mathematical formulas
6.3 interpret mathematical models such as graphs, tables and schematics and draw inferences from them
6.4 use graphical, symbolic, and numerical methods to analyze, organize, and interpret data
6.5 estimate and consider answers to mathematical problems in order to determine reasonableness
6.6 represent mathematical information numerically, symbolically, and visually, using graphs and charts

Area 7: Scientific Reasoning

- 7.1 generate an empirically evidenced and logical argument
7.2 distinguish a scientific argument from a non-scientific argument
7.3 reason by deduction, induction and analogy
7.4 distinguish between causal and correlational relationships
7.5 recognize methods of inquiry that lead to scientific knowledge