

COLLEGE OF MARIN GENERAL EDUCATION STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

While college students choose a specific field of study, part of their educational experience and requirements include a program of general education. This well-rounded, student-driven educational package is intended to be complementary to, but different in emphasis from, the specialized education received for a job or a profession, or from focusing on a particular field of study. By completing a general education program, students expand their knowledge of the content and methodologies in a variety of disciplines.

College of Marin General Education Descriptors

1A. ENGLISH COMPOSITION

The study of English composition helps students build the skills and strategies necessary to read and write at the college level and in everyday life.

In the courses listed for this area, students learn to:

- Communicate complex ideas to a variety of audiences through clear and effective writing in a distinct, authentic voice.
- Support one's ideas with compelling, logical, and credible evidence and analysis from readings and research.
- Develop a successful writing process adaptable to diverse writing situations.
- Document sources appropriately to build credibility and integrity as a scholar.

1B. ORAL COMMUNICATION & CRITICAL THINKING

These courses promote advanced level communication and analytical thinking through writing and speech. These critical thinking skills are applicable throughout one's academic, professional, and personal experiences.

In the courses listed for this area, students learn to:

- Evaluate information critically and express concepts and reasoning clearly.
- Build and communicate clear, well-supported, and logical arguments.
- Develop and apply analytical and reasoning skills.
- Understand that effective communicators adapt messages by evaluating language, culture, relationship, and context.
- Demonstrate rhetorical sensitivity to diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and belonging and adhere to ethical communication practices which include truthfulness, accuracy, honesty, and reason.

2. MATHEMATICAL CONCEPTS & QUANTITATIVE REASONING

These courses foster mathematical and/or quantitative problem-solving skills. These skills are applicable throughout one's academic, professional, and personal experiences.

In the courses listed for this area, students learn to:

- Evaluate information, recognize patterns, and express concepts and reasoning clearly.
- Build clear and logical arguments to support or refute hypotheses.
- Develop and apply analytical skills to interpret data, solve complex problems, and/or communicate quantitative ideas effectively

3. ARTS AND HUMANITIES

These courses examine the arts and humanities as an exploration of human culture, creativity, and thought in all its forms, including significant works of art, literature, performance, language, and philosophy from around the world. An arts and humanities education may also include creating aesthetic works to develop a broader contextual understanding of the arts.

In the courses listed for this area, students learn to:

- Recognize, analyze, and reflect on significant cultural works.
- Foster a greater understanding of aesthetic, intellectual, linguistic, political, and religious dimensions of various cultures.

4. SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

These courses examine people as members of society by exploring the diversity in peoples, cultures, politics, histories, and the complex forces that influence individuals and groups as well as shape and change human societies. These courses teach students how to evaluate these concepts through scientific and social inquiry.

In the courses listed for this area, students learn to:

- Apply the approaches social and behavioral scientists use to explore social phenomena and human behavior, including observation, hypothesis development, measurement, data collection, experimentation, evaluation of evidence, and analysis.
- Analyze and articulate core concepts in a specific social or behavioral science discipline.

5. NATURAL SCIENCES

These courses examine the physical universe, its life forms and natural phenomena and enable students to develop a greater appreciation of the world around them. Through exposure to the broad range of sciences—physical science, biological science, and earth science—students learn how to acquire scientific information to develop their understanding of the nature of science and the relationship between humans and the natural world.

In the courses listed for this area, students learn to:

- Apply the scientific method to explore physical and biological phenomena, including observation, hypothesis development, measurement, data collection, experimentation and analysis.
- Articulate core concepts in a biological or physical science discipline.

6. ETHNIC STUDIES

These courses examine the history and experiences of ethnic and racial groups in the United States. Courses that meet the Ethnic Studies requirement cover content from the following disciplines: Black, African American or Africana Studies; Native American Studies; Chicano/a/x, Latino/a/x, or La Raza Studies; and Asian American Studies.

In the courses listed for this area, students learn to:

- Analyze and evaluate the organizations, movements, and roles of a broad range of ethnic and racial groups in the United States.
- Evaluate misconceptions and stereotypes about cultural groups in the United States and recognize the influence of their own cultural group.

7. HEALTH & PERSONAL GROWTH

Students taking these Dance, Kinesiology, Health Education, and Counseling courses gain fitness, health and personal growth benefits.

In the courses listed for this area, students learn one or more of the following:

- Implement a cardiorespiratory, muscular strength and endurance plan compatible with their goals and lifestyle.

- Identify how much and the types of physical activity one should do for optimal health and wellness.
- Identify basic principles of health and wellness to develop an informed, personal approach to mental and physical health.
- Identify and understand principles of career and life planning