PURPOSE STATEMENT

General education provides students with a breadth of knowledge and capacity for lifelong learning. It stretches students’ minds and broadens their experiences. General education prepares students with the skills to communicate effectively, problem solve, locate and gather information, and think critically and logically. It teaches students to understand and appreciate diversity and its interrelationships as well as community engagement and informed citizenship.

Our general education philosophy is embedded in our vision and mission and is supported by our core values. These core values serve to emphasize our commitment to our students, to learning, to shared responsibility, and to the continuous improvement of the education we offer. We work collaboratively to create a campus culture which is academically challenging and emotionally supportive.

GENERAL LEARNING OUTCOMES

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION (WRITTEN, ORAL, READING, AND LISTENING)
1. Organize and develop ideas effectively.
2. Present ideas in an appropriate, mechanically and grammatically correct, professional style.
3. Follow a standardized documentation format.

QUANTITATIVE LITERACY (INCLUDES COMPUTATIONAL SKILLS)
1. Determine a solution strategy and set up the problem with the pertinent information.
2. Solve the problem using the appropriate data, the mathematical operations (symbols and formulas), and the appropriate technology (such as calculators and computers) as needed.
3. Analyze and interpret the results for accuracy and reasonableness and explain the results using such tools as graphs, charts, and tables as needed (i.e., business, including economics and finance; health; information technology; engineering technology; liberal arts; mathematics; sciences; education and human services).

INFORMATION LITERACY SKILLS
1. Locate, evaluate, and use the needed information effectively.
2. Manipulate current software and hardware to access and communicate information appropriately.
3. Understand copyright rules and the ethics of extracting, sharing, and citing source information.

CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS
1. Understand and interpret data by analyzing and synthesizing information.
2. Challenge assumptions and draw informed and logical conclusions.
3. Test conclusions against relevant criteria and standards while considering practical and ethical implications.

GLOBAL AND DIVERSITY AWARENESS
1. Demonstrate appreciation and respect for individuals and groups and use effective interpersonal and collaboration skills.
2. Demonstrate awareness of the interdependence of factors of diversity: culture, history, sexual orientation, psychological functioning, education, economics, environment, geography, language, politics, age, gender, ethnic heritage, physical challenges, social class, social skills, and religion.

CIVIC, PROFESSIONAL, AND ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITY
1. Demonstrate personal integrity and social responsibility consistent with ethics, individual rights, principles of sustainability, and civility in a democratic society.
2. Accept responsibility for and act in a manner that reflects the values of the communities and organizations.
3. Relate to others in a respectful, courteous, and professional manner.