GENERAL EDUCATION

General education unites college students from diverse areas by adding breadth and depth to their programs of study. General education concepts, frameworks, and/or patterns of thinking transcend disciplines or career fields and allow students to think more broadly and deeply about topics and issues.

Monroe County Community College (MCCC) believes that the college-educated person possesses a body of general knowledge, skills, and abilities that enables the individual to thrive in an increasingly global community. Additionally, an educated person appreciates and enjoys continuous learning. To this end, MCCC offers general education within degrees and integrates general education competencies across the curriculum.

General Education Goals

Student learning is a fundamental component of the College’s mission, vision, core values, and educational objectives. Therefore, the assessment of student learning is an essential component of institutional effectiveness. MCCC is committed to assessing students’ higher-order learning skills and affective development, as well as the skills required for professional and personal success in an era of global competitiveness.

To this end, MCCC has defined three General Education Goals:

- Critical Thinking: Students will think critically using a purposeful, reasoned, objective, and goal-directed process in a variety of contexts.

- Communication: Students will effectively exchange ideas and information using multiple methods of communication.

- Social and Cultural Awareness: Students will understand the broad diversity of the human experience.

General Education Competencies

Competencies are the knowledge, skills, abilities, and behaviors critical to student achievement. They are directly tied to the General Education Goals.

- Critical Thinking: Students will think critically using a purposeful, reasoned, objective, and goal-directed process in a variety of contexts. Students will:
  
  - Apply appropriate problem-solving techniques
  - Use numbers and quantitative relationships
  - Access and evaluate information from credible sources

- Communication: Students will effectively exchange ideas and information using multiple methods of communication. Students will:
  
  - Write effectively
  - Speak effectively
Use current and appropriate technology tools and resources

Social and Cultural Awareness: Students will understand the broad diversity of the human experience. Students will:

- Appreciate expressions of the human experience
- Recognize the interrelationship of social factors on human thought and action
- Demonstrate responsible citizenship

**General Education Learning Outcomes**

Learning Outcomes are competencies stated in an observable or measurable way. These are designed to facilitate the assessment of student learning. The outcomes are assessed inside and outside the classroom and guide learning, decision-making, and actions by all members of the College community.

- Critical Thinking: Students will think critically using a purposeful, reasoned, objective, and goal-directed process in a variety of contexts. Students will:
  - Apply appropriate problem-solving techniques
    - Students will define a problem, utilize appropriate methods to solve the problem, and propose and evaluate a solution to the problem.
  - Use numbers and quantitative relationships
    - Students will apply mathematical concepts and methods to understand, analyze, and communicate in quantitative terms.
  - Access and evaluate information from credible sources
    - Students will demonstrate an understanding of the structure of the information environment and the process by which information is produced, organized, and disseminated.

- Communication: Students will effectively exchange ideas and information using multiple methods of communication. Students will:
  - Write effectively
    - Students will write Standard American English in a clear, correct, and organized manner for a variety of purposes and audiences.
  - Speak effectively
    - Students will speak in a clear, precise, coherent, perceptive, and correct manner for a variety of purposes and audiences.
  - Use current and appropriate technology tools and resources
    - Students will use computer technology to retrieve and communicate information.
• Social and Cultural Awareness: Students will understand the broad diversity of the human experience. Students will:
  
  o Appreciate expressions of the human experience
    ■ Students will explore, share, and reconstruct expressions of the human experience within the context of the past and present.
  
  o Recognize the interrelationship of social factors on human thought and action
    ■ Students will examine the impact of social factors on personal beliefs while considering alternatives to the dominant cultural viewpoint.
  
  o Demonstrate responsible citizenship
    ■ Students will demonstrate an understanding of responsible and participatory citizenship.

Degree Requirements and General Education

At Monroe County Community College, general education goals and competencies are the foundation of each certificate program of substantial length (45 or more credit hours) and of each associate degree (60 or more credit hours). Students are exposed to opportunities to achieve general education goals, competencies, and learning outcomes through instruction in a range of disciplines and fields of study within coursework and/or co-curricular activities.