

## 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:
  - Understand and apply the elements of scientific inquiry and scientific principles in a natural science college laboratory course setting
  - Use mathematics to effectively model and evaluate quantitative relationships
- **Communication:** Students will effectively exchange ideas and information using multiple methods of communication. Students will:
  - Write effectively
  - Understand and apply current and appropriate technology tools and resources
- **Social and Cultural Awareness:** Students will understand the broad diversity of the human experience. Students will:
  - Recognize expressions of the human experience
  - Understand the processes that influence human values, thoughts, social systems, and behavior

### 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:

- Understand and apply the elements of scientific inquiry and scientific principles in a natural science college laboratory course setting

Students will use the scientific method to define a problem, utilize appropriate methods to solve the problem, and propose and evaluate a solution to the problem.

- Use mathematics to effectively model and evaluate quantitative relationships

Students will apply mathematical concepts and methods to understand, analyze, and communicate in quantitative terms.

- 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.

- Understand and apply 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:

- Recognize expressions of the human experience

Students will explore, share, and reconstruct expressions of the human experience within the context of the past and present.

- Understand the processes that influence human values, thoughts, social systems, and behavior

Students will examine the impact of social factors on personal beliefs, while considering alternatives to the dominate culture’s viewpoint.

#### General Education Learning Objectives

Learning Objectives are specific, observable, and measurable activities that a student performs to show competence of a Learning Outcome.

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

- Understand and apply the elements of scientific inquiry and scientific principles in a natural science college laboratory course setting

Students will use the scientific method to define a problem, utilize appropriate methods to solve the problem, and propose and evaluate a solution to the problem.

Learning Objectives: In order to achieve the learning outcome,  
the student will be able to . . .

1. Observe and describe natural phenomena and formulate hypotheses.
2. Plan and implement scientific experiments to test hypotheses.
3. Utilize scientific laboratory skills for data collection

- within a college laboratory setting.
- 4. Evaluate experimental data and propose solutions based on this data.
- 5. Evaluate the proposed implications of a solution.
- o Use mathematics to effectively model and evaluate quantitative relationships

Students will apply mathematical concepts and methods to understand, analyze, and communicate in quantitative terms.

Learning Objectives: In order to achieve the learning outcome, the student will be able to . . .

1. Use arithmetic and geometric concepts and representations to solve, estimate, calculate, and check answers to problems to determine the reasonableness of results.
  2. Utilize linear, exponential and other nonlinear models to evaluate the nature of relationships in real world problems.
  3. Organize, analyze, and interpret various representations of data, including functions, graphs and tables.
  4. Utilize a variety of problem solving strategies to solve problems and communicate findings using appropriate mathematical language and symbolism.
- Communication: Students will effectively exchange ideas and information using multiple methods of communication. Students will:
    - o Write effectively

Students will write Standard American English in a clear, correct, and organized manner for a variety of purposes and audiences.

Learning Objectives: In order to achieve the learning outcome, the student will be able to . . .

1. Write clear and concise sentences using Standard American English with appropriate syntax and mechanics.
2. Write paragraphs that demonstrate unity and coherence with appropriate details and examples that support the topic and thesis.
3. Develop written compositions using organizational patterns or rhetorical modes appropriate for the desired audience and purpose.
4. Combine the composition skills of prewriting, revising, and editing to complete a final, college-level draft.

- o Understand and apply current and appropriate technology tools and resources

Students will use computer technology to retrieve and communicate information.

Learning Objectives: In order to achieve the learning outcome, the student will be able to . . .

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the functionality and terminology associated with current information technology tools and resources.
2. Demonstrate the ability to conduct online research to locate and retrieve relevant information from credible sources.
3. Demonstrate the ability to use document processing software.
4. Demonstrate the ability to use presentation software to communicate information and ideas.
5. Demonstrate the ability to appropriately and responsibly utilize current communication technology methods.

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

- Recognize expressions of the human experience

Students will explore, share, and reconstruct expressions of the human experience within the context of the past and present.

Learning Objectives: In order to achieve the learning outcome, the student will be able to . . .

1. Analyze key events (including historical, social, economic, and/or personal) that influenced a particular form of creative human expression.
2. Analyze key events (including historical, social, economic, and/or personal) that demonstrate how a particular form of creative human expression influenced other works.
3. Evaluate a particular form of creative human expression in the context of the appropriate academic discipline.
4. Create or reconstruct an expression of the human experience and share with others (*if the class is performance based*).

- Understand the processes that influence human values, thoughts, social systems, and behavior

Students will examine the impact of social factors on personal beliefs, while considering alternatives to the dominate culture’s viewpoint.

Learning Objectives: In order to achieve the learning outcome, the student will be able to . . .

1. Recognize the processes by which individuals acquire social knowledge attitudes and beliefs.
2. Recognize major influences on social behavior and social systems.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of human diversity including characteristics of a culture outside the student's own.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of at least one systematic method for obtaining knowledge about social influences according to a recognized social science discipline.

### **Degree Requirements and General Education**

At Monroe County Community College, general education goals and competencies are the foundation 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.