



Northampton Community College

General Education Core Curriculum

What is General Education at Northampton Community College?

An undergraduate degree is comprised of three parts: courses in the major, elective courses, and courses in the General Education Core Curriculum. *Major courses* define the program of study. Students choose *electives* that fit their individual interests. The General Education Core Curriculum is the part of the academic experience that all students have *in common*.

The GE Core defines an important set of knowledge and skills that will help our graduates to continue learning, adapt to change, and become citizens who can make wise choices and contribute to their community.

The General Education Core Curriculum is designed to go hand in hand with the major courses to develop skills that will serve students in their academic study, careers, and in their lives. Though in some designated GE Core courses the focus will be on particular outcomes, we expect that the knowledge and skills that are part of the GE Core Curriculum will be reinforced throughout the other major courses and electives

General Education Core Curriculum Requirements

Knowledge of Arts, Cultures and the Natural World

ARTS & HUMANITIES

Goal: Students should be able to understand both the creative process and how works of human imagination and thought from diverse cultures, places, and times express varieties of human experience.

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will demonstrate the ability to understand, analyze, discuss, and interpret works that confront, express, and examine human experience.
- Students will express their understanding of the ways that language, literature, philosophy, or the visual and performing arts challenge or reinforce specific cultural or historic values and conditions.

SOCIAL SCIENCE

Goal: Students will demonstrate knowledge of both the Societies and Institutions Over Time (SIT) and the Scientific Study of Human Behavior (SSHB).

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will identify the major concepts of a social science discipline and demonstrate critical thinking in their application.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of how a social science discipline describes, analyzes, and explains social change or human behavior.
- Students will demonstrate an awareness of how people's experiences and perspectives are shaped by sex, gender, ethnicity, class, age, race, culture and other factors.

SCIENCE

Goal: Students will demonstrate a working knowledge of scientific principles and concepts and be able to apply them to daily situations.

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will understand the scientific method as it relates to the particular discipline recognizing the potential for uncertainty in the scientific inquiry.
- Students will develop basic laboratory skills used for collecting and analyzing data according to the particular discipline.

DIVERSITY

Goal: Students will demonstrate an understanding of diverse domestic and global cultures, through analysis of their arts, histories, geographies, and/or institutions, in order to participate effectively in a multicultural, global society.

Intellectual and Practical Skills

COMMUNICATION

Goal: Students will present and support ideas in an organized and coherent manner consistent with the intended audience and purpose in both speaking and writing.

Learning Outcomes:

- Students demonstrate critical thinking in collecting, analyzing, understanding, and choosing effective ideas and supporting materials.
- Students understand and choose effective communication strategies and organize ideas and information with a clear central idea or thesis.
- Students show clear awareness of audience needs in word choice, level of explanation, and method of presentation.

All students in degree programs will take English I, English II, and Speech Communication. Skills in writing are further reinforced and assessed in subsequent required writing-intensive courses.

COMPUTER LITERACY

Goal: Students will use computer technology as a tool for communication and productivity both professionally and personally.

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will demonstrate knowledge of computer concepts and terminology.
- Students will use technology for communication and research with tools such as email and the Internet.
- Students will create, store, retrieve and print appropriately formatted documents using assorted software such as word processors, spreadsheets, and other applications required by their field of study.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the ethical use of current technologies.

INFORMATION LITERACY

Goal: Students will demonstrate effective research skills in gathering and using information.

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will locate and identify appropriate information.
- Students will critically evaluate source information and incorporate it effectively into their work.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the ethical and legal use of intellectual property.

QUANTITATIVE LITERACY

Goal: The student will be able to interpret and analyze quantitative data to solve problems, and they will be able to communicate their results.

Learning Outcomes:

- The student will be able to interpret, analyze, and draw conclusions about data presented as words, abstract symbols, tables, or graphs.
- The student will be able to apply aspects of mathematics to think critically, to model events, and to solve problems.
- The student will be able to communicate results both in writing and orally using appropriate mathematical language and symbolism with supporting data and graphs.