
3.X GENERAL EDUCATION PROCEDURE

Category: Academic

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Title of Responsible Executive: Provost and VP, Academic Services

Process

The Monroe Community College General Education Requirements (MCC-GER) are based on a set of overarching Institutional Learning Outcomes that align with the State University of New York General Education Requirements (SUNY-GER) and Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) general education requirements. This alignment ensures that graduates who complete MCC-GER will also have satisfied SUNY and MSCHE general education requirements. All graduates of MCC's associate degree programs will have completed a robust general education curriculum that infuses the attainment of knowledge, skills, and competencies within each student's program of study.

Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs):

Upon the successful completion of an associate degree at Monroe Community College, a graduate will be able to:

1. Engage in discipline-based inquiry or problem-solving. (Critical Thinking)
2. Apply research techniques to locate and utilize valid sources of information. (Information Literacy)
3. Use technology in discipline-specific ways to further educational or occupational goals. (Technological Literacy)
4. Express the application of personal, educational, or professional values to ethics-based decision-making. (Values and Ethics)
5. Communicate effectively in academic or professional settings. (Write effectively and engage in effective oral communication in a discipline-based context)

Assessment of ILOs shall be undertaken concurrently with assessment of the general education learning outcomes (GELOs).

MCC General Education Learning Outcomes (GELOs):

The MCC General Education Requirements (MCC-GER) ensure that all students in associate degree programs acquire knowledge, skills, and competencies to help them succeed in their chosen post-graduation educational or career path.

Degree programs at MCC are designed to meet a set of twelve (12) general education learning outcomes (GELOs). Required program courses may satisfy more than one MCC-GELO. Therefore, by design, students who meet all of the listed program requirements for a degree will satisfy the MCC-GER. The twelve GELOs are broken into six "knowledge areas" and six "skills and competencies areas". These knowledge areas and skills and competencies areas, along with their corresponding learning outcome, are listed below.

Knowledge Areas:

1. **Scientific Reasoning (SCI):** Apply discipline-specific scientific reasoning to argument or

analysis.

2. **Social Science and Diversity (SSD)**: Analyze domestic political, economic, or social issues from various points of view.
3. **Quantitative Literacy (QL)**: Apply quantitative analysis to solve discipline-specific problems, analyze patterns and trends, or evaluate data.
4. **Arts and Humanities (AH)**: Discuss various aspects of cultural expression.
5. **Global Understanding (GLO)**: Examine global issues from various perspectives.
6. **Health and Wellness (HW)**: Apply physical fitness principles and practices to a personal wellness plan.

In order for a course to qualify as meeting an MCC Knowledge Area GELO, the following standards will be applied:

- At least 50% of the course learning (as demonstrated by CLOs and course outline) is dedicated to that knowledge area; AND
- The course can be shown to specifically fulfill a particular knowledge area outcome; OR
- The course fulfills corresponding SUNY-GER Learning Outcomes that have been mapped to the knowledge area.
- A course may satisfy a maximum of two (2) Knowledge Areas.

Skills and Competencies Areas:

1. **Writing (BCW)**: Write effectively in a discipline-specific context.
2. **Speaking (BCO)**: Engage in effective oral communication in a discipline-specific context.
3. **Information Literacy (IL)**: Apply research techniques to locate and utilize valid sources of information.
4. **Technological Literacy (TL)**: Use Technology in discipline-specific ways to further educational or occupational goals.
5. **Critical Thinking (CT)**: Engage in discipline-based inquiry or problem-solving.
6. **Values and Ethics (VE)**: Express the application of personal, educational, or professional values to ethics-based decision-making.

In order for a course to qualify as meeting an MCC Skill or Competency GELO, the following standards will be applied:

- At least 25% of course learning (as demonstrated by CLOs and course outline) is dedicated to that skill or competency
- The course can be shown to specifically fulfill a particular knowledge area outcome; OR
- The course fulfills corresponding SUNY-GER Learning Outcomes that have been mapped to the knowledge area.
- A course may satisfy a maximum of four (4) Skills and/or Competencies.

Any single course may satisfy up to a maximum of four (4) Knowledge Areas and/or Skills and Competencies GELOs. Faculty may designate courses as meeting MCC GELOs in any of the following potential combinations:

- 1-2 Knowledge Areas + 0 Skills and Competencies

- 1 Knowledge Area + up to 3 Skills and Competencies
- 2 Knowledge Areas + up to 2 Skills and Competencies
- 0 Knowledge Areas + up to 4 Skills and Competencies

Courses that qualify for SUNY-GER also meet the following MCC GELOs:

1. Mathematics (SUNY-M)

Quantitative Literacy (QL)

Critical Thinking (CT)

Technological Literacy (TL) - extension

Writing (BCW) – extension

2. Natural Sciences (SUNY-NS)

Scientific Reasoning (SCI)

Critical Thinking (CT)

Writing (BCW) - extension

Information Literacy (IL) - extension

Technological Literacy (TL) – extension

3. Social Science (SUNY-SS)

Social Science and Diversity (SSD)

Scientific Reasoning (SCI)

Critical Thinking (CT)

Writing (BCW) - extension

Values and Ethics (VE) - extension

Global Understanding (GLO) - extension

Information Literacy (IL) – extension

4. American History (SUNY-AH)

Social Science and Diversity (SSD)

Writing (BCW) - extension

Values and Ethics (VE) - extension

5. Western Civilization (SUNY-WC)

Social Science and Diversity (SSD)

Critical Thinking (CT)

Global Understanding (GLO)

Writing (BCW) - extension

Values and Ethics (VE) – extension

6. Other World Civilizations (SUNY-OWC)

Social Science and Diversity (SSD)

Global Understanding (GLO)

Values and Ethics (VE) - extension

Arts and Humanities (AH) - extension

Writing (BCW) - extension

7. Humanities (SUNY-H)

Arts and Humanities (AH)

Writing (BCW) - extension

Global Understanding (GLO) - extension

Information Literacy (IL) - extension

Values and Ethics (VE) – extension

8. The Arts (SUNY-A)**Arts and Humanities (AH)**

Writing (BCW) - extension

Speaking (BCO) - extension

9. Foreign Languages (SUNY-FL)**Arts and Humanities (AH)****Speaking (BCO)**

Global Understanding (GLO) - extension

10. Basic Communication (SUNY-BC)**Writing (BCW)****Information Literacy (IL)****Speaking (BCO)**

Critical Thinking (CT) - extension

To qualify for satisfaction of MCC GELOs, every course must be verified through the established curriculum proposal submission and review process. Although MCC GELOs indicated above in **bold** are assumed to be met by virtue of the course meeting SUNY-GER Student Learning Outcomes, confirmation and documentation through the established process is still required. In some cases, the SUNY-GER courses will qualify for satisfaction of additional MCC GELOs. These are indicated by the '*extension*' tag in the list above.

Courses may also qualify as meeting other MCC GELOs than those noted above. Departments may provide evidence that a course meets other MCC GELOs through submission of information on the curriculum database form. This will allow courses to qualify for MCC GELOs on a case-by-case basis.

It is intended that courses normally meet only one SUNY-GER at a time, but there are circumstances under which a course may qualify as meeting two SUNY-GERs. In any case, once a given course is approved by SUNY as meeting a SUNY-GER, the attribute is never deleted from SUNY's database. If the department proposes that the course to meet a different SUNY-GER, removing the original SUNY-GER from local list of MCC Gen Eds would be inaccurate and potentially misleading to students. Likewise, although the intention is that an MCC GLO recognized as a Knowledge Area is would not fulfill a Skill and Competency (and vice versa), there could be exceptions. These exceptions must be approved by the Provost on a case-by-case basis, based on the documentation submitted by the Department.

Although most degree programs use program course requirements to satisfy the MCC GELOs and ILOs, programs may use any of the following methods to ensure that all MCC GELOs and ILOs are met:

1. Program content already meets MCC GELOs and ILOs through appropriate courses and SUNY-GER content. This will be verified by each department using the qualification criteria

for their program courses, submitted through a curriculum database form.

2. Alternative methods for ensuring students meet MCC GELOs and ILOs will include:
 - a. Administering a cumulative, capstone, or qualifying exam near the end of a student's program,
 - b. Mapping outcomes across courses throughout the program, rather than using a single course to deliver the content, or
 - c. Requiring a project or portfolio that provides evidence of cumulative skills/knowledge in an area.

Assessment of ILOs shall be undertaken concurrently with assessment of the general education learning outcomes (GELOs).

Definitions:

General Education - An undergraduate curriculum of broad, high-quality courses that provides students with a set of non-specialized, coherent and focused educational experiences aimed at enabling students to acquire knowledge and skills that are useful and important for all educated persons regardless of their jobs or professions. (Source: SUNY Trustees Resolution 2010-006)

Institutional Learning Outcomes: - Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs) represent the knowledge, skills, abilities, and attitudes that a student has attained at the end (or are expected to develop as a result) of their engagement during their time at the institution. These skills are developed through intentional, guided, and iterative overall experiences across disciplines and programs and throughout students' time in college, with any aspect of the college, including courses, programs, and student services.

General Education Learning Outcomes: - A statement that describes what a student should know or be able to do at the end of a general education course. General Education learning outcomes for a particular course are included in the course syllabus.

Local General Education Requirements - General education requirements established by individual SUNY campuses to either add specificity to the SUNY-GER (e.g., require specific SUNY-GER areas) or exceed the 30-credit SUNY-GER.

Programmatic General Education Requirements - Specific general education requirements associated with individual academic programs, such as requirements in programs leading to teacher certification that are externally mandated. These may be met within the 30-credit SUNY-GER, but they may also exceed the SUNY-GER (e.g., additional courses, minimum course grades).

Capstone course: The capstone course is usually the last class in a program of study. It is called a capstone because it represents a crowning achievement as a capstone does in architecture.

General Education Requirement: As a condition of graduation, all candidates for a specified degree are required to complete an academically rigorous and comprehensive core General Education curriculum as set by SUNY and MCC.

Forms

[MCC General Education New Outcomes Based Design.](#)

[MCC General Education Policy](#)

[SUNY General Education Requirements](#)

Contact Information

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