

The Goals of the General Education Program at Illinois State University  
and the Shared Learning Outcomes

**Shared Learning Outcome #1**

**Critical Inquiry and Problem Solving**

Students will develop and communicate a range of interests and curiosities, engaging those interests and curiosities through critical thinking, reasoning, and problem solving.

**General Education Goals**

2. Provide for the systematic development of critical thinking, quantitative reasoning, and communication skills. As a result, students will be able to:
  - a. Critically evaluate a wide variety of ideas and express that analysis in both writing and speaking.
  - b. Use quantitative reasoning appropriate to the particular problems they address.
4. Provide for student involvement in learning that is active and continuous. As a result, students will be able to:
  - a. Articulate their position on a variety of issues, understanding the context of others' viewpoints.
5. Develop the ability to make informed, well reasoned moral and ethical judgments. As a result, students will be able to:
  - a. Recognize moral issues and apply relevant principles and arguments to their resolution.
11. Develop an understanding of the earth's environment, including the natural forces and specific human activities that impinge upon it. As a result, students will be able to:
  - a. Evaluate the real and potential consequences of natural, ideological, and social forces that affect life.
  - b. Demonstrate an understanding of the interactive links between the development and use of technology and the biosphere.

**Shared Learning Outcome #2**

**Public Opportunity**

Students will identify the resources and subsequent value of civic and community engagement.

**General Education Goals**

7. Develop the ability to function as a responsible participant in the social, economic, technological, and political dimensions of life within local, national, and global communities. As a result students will be able to:
  - a. Describe different ways in which the social, economic, technological, and political dimensions of life are known and conducted.
  - b. Analyze the meaning and purpose of individual and social life, focusing on such concepts or institutions as family, religion, business, and the state.
  - c. Formulate a critically informed position on participation in civic life.
12. Foster an understanding of the social and collaborative nature of knowledge and learning. As a result, students will be able to:
  - a. Account for the influence of context upon the creation and use of knowledge.

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**Shared Learning Outcome #3**

Diverse and Global Perspectives Students will be exposed to diverse and global perspectives by developing and communicating an appreciation for the impact made in personal and professional lives.

**General Education Goals**

6. Develop a critical appreciation of a wide range of aesthetic experiences. As a result, students will be able to:
  - a. Formulate interpretations of diverse forms of creative expression.
  - b. Understand the role of the individual as creator in diverse depth of human creativity.
  
10. Develop an acquaintance with the civilizations of the world, the many ethnic traditions that create American culture, and the emerging common civilization of the contemporary world community. As a result, students will be able to:
  - a. Identify and critically reflect upon the major institutions, movements, ideas, and values which characterize the past and present of culture in the United States.
  - b. Identify and critically reflect upon the major institutions, movements, ideas, and values which characterize the past and present of culture in Western cultures.
  - c. Identify and critically reflect upon the major institutions, movements, ideas, and values which characterize the past and present of world cultures.
  - d. Investigate cross-cultural issues, including human nature, human rights, gender, race and religion globally.

**Shared Learning Outcome #4**

Life-Long Learning

Students will utilize the skills indicative of an effective life-long learner actively pursuing knowledge and applying new information and skills in interdisciplinary approaches.

**General Education Goals**

1. Focus on the acquisition and application of a common core of knowledge, drawn from the humanities, sciences, and social sciences. As a result, students will be able to:
  - a. Assess the relative value of literacy and artistic works for themselves and for contemporary society.
  - b. Recognize the significant events, ideas, individuals, artifacts, and institutions that have shaped our knowledge of the world.
  - c. Describe principle scientific and mathematical concepts used to understand both the natural world and the technologies that modify it.
  - d. Illustrate the relevance of science and technology to problems connected with the quality of life for individuals and communities.
  
3. Integrate general education with the major through the identification, exploration, and development of common dimensions. As a result, students will be able to:
  - a. Develop skills that can be incorporated within their majors.
  
4. Provide for student involvement in learning that is active and continuous. As a result, students will be able to:
  - a. Articulate their position on a variety of issues, understanding the context of others' viewpoints.

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8. Provide opportunities to explore connections among ideas from the perspectives of different disciplines. As a result, students will be able to:
  - a. Discuss how and why different fields may legitimately develop various formulations of a single issue.
  - b. Explore the ramifications of knowledge across disciplinary fields.
9. Provide learning experiences on issues and themes that transcend the boundaries of traditional disciplines. As a result, students will be able to:
  - a. Contribute to collaborative efforts involving two or more disciplines.
12. Foster an understanding of the social and collaborative nature of knowledge and learning. As a result, students will be able to:
  - a. Account for the influence of context upon the creation and use of knowledge.