

MPC GE STANDARDS
Approved by MPC Academic Senate April 21, 2016
(Areas C and E2 revised 2021 – Effective 2022)

General Education Philosophy

The awarding of an Associate degree is intended to represent more than an accumulation of units. It is to symbolize a successful attempt on the part of the college to lead students through patterns of learning experiences designed to develop certain capabilities and insights. Among these are the ability to think critically and to communicate clearly and effectively both orally and in writing; to use mathematics; to understand the modes of inquiry of the major disciplines; to be aware of other cultures and times; to achieve insights gained through experience in thinking about ethical problems; and to develop the capacity for self-understanding.

In addition to these accomplishments, the students shall possess sufficient depth of knowledge in a selected field to contribute to a lifetime of interest in that field.

Central to an Associate degree, general education is designed to introduce students to the variety of ways in which people comprehend the modern world. Monterey Peninsula College's general education curriculum reflects the conviction that students who receive Associate degrees shall possess in common knowledge of certain basic principles, concepts and methodologies both unique to and shared by the various disciplines. College educated persons must be able to use this knowledge when evaluating and appreciating the natural world, the culture, and the society in which they live. Most importantly, general education shall lead students to better understanding of their world.

MPC shall assist students by creating coherence and integration among the requirements of the separate disciplines so that students recognize the interrelationships among social, political, cultural and economic institutions both within and between global societies. Participation in general education programs shall provide students with opportunities to critically examine the values and beliefs inherent in proposed solutions to major societal problems.

At Monterey Peninsula College, the institution's General Education Outcomes (GEOs) specify the ways students will demonstrate knowledge and abilities gained while completing the General Education program. All general education courses will include the GEO for that area as one of their outcomes.

Accreditation Requirements

ACCJC 2014 Standard IIA12

The institution requires of all of its degree programs a component of general education based on a carefully considered philosophy for both associate and baccalaureate degrees that is clearly stated in its catalog. The institution, relying on faculty expertise, determines the appropriateness of each course for inclusion in the general education curriculum, based upon student learning

outcomes and competencies appropriate to the degree level. The learning outcomes include a student's preparation for and acceptance of responsible participation in civil society, skills for lifelong learning and application of learning, and a broad comprehension of the development of knowledge, practice, and interpretive approaches in the arts and humanities, the sciences, mathematics, and social sciences.

http://www.accjc.org/wpcontent/uploads/2014/07/Accreditation_Standards_Adopted_June_2014.pdf

Area A: Communication Skills

Title 5, Section 55063(b)(1)(D) Language and Rationality. Courses in language and rationality are those which develop for the student the principles and application of language toward logical thought, clear and precise expression and critical evaluation of communication in whatever symbol system the student uses.

Area A1: English Composition

Title 5, Section 55063(b)(1)(D)(i) English Composition. Courses fulfilling the written composition requirement shall be designed to include both expository and argumentative writing.

Composition courses provide theory and instruction to develop students' abilities to read and listen critically, and to communicate knowledge, information, ideas, and feelings. The skills learned in these studies also enhance students' abilities to evaluate, solve problems, and make reasoned decisions.

MPC GEO Area A1:

Upon successful completion of this area, students will have demonstrated an ability to form a provable thesis, develop it through factual research, distinguish between fact and opinion, and make effective rhetorical choices in relation to audience and purpose.

The following examples illustrate the kinds of additional Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) that courses fulfilling the MPC GE Area A1 might include, depending on the course subject. Actual course SLOs should build on the kinds of themes illustrated by these examples.

1. Read complex college level texts and listen to college level lectures without guidance, and summarize the information presented.
2. Analyze ideas presented in college level reading material, and present that analysis clearly in writing.
3. Write clearly, imaginatively, and forcefully, selecting forms, methods and modes that will best achieve a writing assignment's purpose.
4. Use proper research methods, keep proper research records, and incorporate researched material appropriately into their own ideas and writing.

5. Recognize and use logical arguments, persuasive strategies, and conventions that are appropriate to the writer's audience.

Area A2: Communication and Analytical Thinking

Title 5, Section 55806 55063(b)(1)(D)(ii) Communication and Analytical Thinking. Courses fulfilling the communication and analytical thinking requirement include oral communication, mathematics, logic, statistics, computer languages and programming and related disciplines.

These courses provide theory and instruction in effective communication and analytical thinking, which enable the bridging of disciplines. Through the use of effective resources, students are able to interpret and analyze problems, evaluate answers, make judgments, and enhance their general knowledge.

MPC GEO Area A2:

Upon successful completion of this area, students will have demonstrated an ability to analyze and evaluate complex issues or problems, draw reasoned conclusions and/or generate solutions, and effectively communicate the results.

The following examples illustrate the kinds of additional Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) that courses fulfilling the MPC GE Area A2 might include, depending on the course subject. Actual course SLOs should build on the kinds of themes illustrated by these examples.

1. Make effective use of tools in order to obtain, organize and or critically evaluate information.
2. Synthesize, critique, argue and give alternatives to various problems.
3. Solve and or avoid problems by experimenting and generating solutions.
4. Communicate results clearly, in writing, and through the use of various technological methods.
5. Interconnect the knowledge of multiple disciplines.

Area B: Natural Sciences

Title 5, Section 55063(b)(1)(A) Natural Sciences. Courses in the natural sciences are those which examine the physical universe, its life forms, and its natural phenomena. To satisfy the general education requirement in natural sciences a course shall be designed to help the student develop an appreciation and understanding of the scientific method and encourage an understanding of the relationships between science and other human activities. This category would include introductory or integrative courses in astronomy, biology, chemistry, general physical science, geology, meteorology, oceanography, physical geography, physical anthropology, physics and other scientific disciplines.

These courses provide theory and instruction that increase students' awareness of the world of natural phenomena. These courses also provide opportunities to explore how the world functions by using the scientific method to develop explanations for observations of the natural world.

MPC GEO Area B:

Upon successful completion of this area, students will have demonstrated an ability to use the scientific method to investigate phenomena in the natural world and to use laboratory experiments and concepts or theories to explain them.

The following examples illustrate the kinds of additional Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) that courses fulfilling the MPC GE Area B area might include, depending on the course subject. Actual course SLO should build on the kinds of themes illustrated by these examples.

1. Use standard types of anthropologic evidence such as bones and fossils to support theories of human evolution.
2. Relate the structure and arrangement of organs to physiological process.
3. Identify mammalian organs at the microscopic and macroscopic level.
4. Describe homeostatic mechanisms that regulate human cells, tissues, and organ systems.
5. Test hypotheses by performing experiments safely and independently in the laboratory environment.
6. Analyze how physical and/or abiotic aspects of habitats influence the assortment of organisms within an ecosystem.
7. Use the principles of evolution to analyze the unity and diversity of living organisms.
8. Synthesize how major scientific theories such as evolution, tectonics, and the atom have evolved from the initial hypotheses of early pioneers to the paradigms of modern science.
9. Apply fundamental scientific concepts in analyzing the authenticity and viability of science periodicals, websites, newspapers and other reference sources.
10. Explain the basic tenets of theories that describe the origin of the Earth, Moon, solar system, galaxy, and universe, and their relationships to each other.
11. Describe matter and its transformations according to atomic theory, theories of chemical bonding, and the writing of balanced chemical equations.
12. Use dimensional analysis to perform calculations and solve word problems related to chemistry specific topics.
13. Use appropriate instruments to measure and analyze object motion in the context of Newton's laws and the principles of energy conservation.

Area C: Humanities

Title 5, Section 55063(b)(1)(C) Humanities. Courses in the humanities are those which study the cultural activities and artistic expressions of human beings. To satisfy the general education requirement in the humanities, a course shall be designed to help the student develop an awareness of the ways in which people throughout the ages and in different cultures have responded to themselves and the world around them in artistic and cultural creation and help the student develop aesthetic understanding and an ability to make value judgments. Such courses could include introductory or integrative courses in the arts, foreign languages, literature, philosophy, and religion.

Humanities courses provide theory and instruction that encompass thought and language and reflect, interpret, and communicate concepts, values, beliefs, and traditions held individually,

socially, and culturally. Study of the humanities develops an awareness, appreciation, and understanding of the human condition and of how that condition relates to personal and societal needs, cultural values, and achievements. The performing and visual arts are unique in that the mode of communication is primarily presentational rather than discursive, and the deepest meanings in the arts can be nonverbal.

MPC GEO Area C:

Upon successful completion of this area, students will have demonstrated an ability to analyze and interpret human thought, achievement, cultural values, and expression relevant to such branches of knowledge as philosophy, literature, foreign languages, and/or the fine and performing arts, and to communicate the results.

This content must be evident in the description, outcomes, objectives, and lecture/lab topics.

The following examples illustrate the kinds of additional Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) that courses fulfilling the MPC GE Area C area might include, depending on the course subject. Actual course SLOs should build on the kinds of themes illustrated by these examples.

1. Express verbal and nonverbal meanings through visual, auditory, tactile, and/or symbolic means.
2. Compare and contrast several forms of expression, including both verbal and nonverbal modes.
3. Describe several ways in which forms of expressions are used to communicate social, cultural, and personal ideas, as well as nonverbal meanings.
4. Analyze the ways in which history, language, and the visual and performing arts are interconnected.
5. Interpret various forms of communication used in human thought and achievement.
6. Explain how and why the visual and performing arts are unique and how inherent meaning in the arts transcend written and verbal communication.

Area D: Social Sciences

Title 5, Section 55063(b)(1)(B) Social and Behavioral Sciences. Courses in the social and behavioral sciences are those which focus on people as members of society. To satisfy the general education requirement in social and behavioral sciences, a course shall be designed to develop an awareness of the method of inquiry used by the social and behavioral sciences. It shall be designed to stimulate critical thinking about the ways people act and have acted in response to their societies and should promote appreciation of how societies and social subgroups operate. This category would include introductory or integrative survey courses in cultural anthropology, cultural geography, economics, history, political science, psychology, sociology and related disciplines.

Social Science courses use empirical methods and diverse theoretical approaches to investigate interactions of individuals, institutions and society. Disciplines in the Social Sciences frequently address the analysis of social inequalities. Students will develop an understanding of the

relationships between cultural, economic, geographic, historical, institutional, linguistic, political, psychological, religious and/or social factors.

MPC GEO Area D:

Upon successful completion of this area, students will have demonstrated an ability to critically examine and comprehend human nature and behavior, social traditions, and institutions.

The following examples illustrate the kinds of additional Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) that courses fulfilling the MPC GE Area D might include, depending on the course subject. Actual course SLOs should build on the kinds of themes illustrated by these examples.

1. Apply key concepts and theories about human, institutional, and/or societal systems and development.
2. Evaluate popular beliefs about human behavior and society, distinguishing opinion and values from scientific observations and study.
3. Use scientific and/or interpretive research methodologies to study individuals and society.
4. Explain how historical and contemporary differences such as race, class, gender, sexuality, age and ability affect individuals and society.

Area E: Self Development

Courses in this area promote lifelong learning and self-development. The knowledge gained from these courses assists students to function independently and effectively in a continual process of personal growth.

Area E1: Wellness

MPC GEO Area E1:

Upon successful completion of this area, students will have demonstrated an ability to analyze how physical, social, emotional, and/or intellectual factors contribute to wellness and healthful living.

The following examples illustrate the kinds of additional Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) that courses fulfilling the MPC GE Area E1 might include, depending on the course subject. Actual course SLOs should build on the kinds of themes illustrated by these examples.

1. Apply nutrition science principles to prepare healthy meals.
2. Describe the benefits of exercise in promoting wellness.
3. Create a stress management plan that balances work-life demands.
4. Demonstrate effective conflict management skills.

Area E2: Career Exploration

MPC GEO Area E2:

Upon successful completion of this area, students will have demonstrated an ability to accurately assess knowledge, skills, and abilities in relationship to their career goals.

The career component must be evident in the description, outcomes, objectives, and content.

The following examples illustrate the kinds of additional Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) that courses fulfilling the MPC GE Area E2 might include, depending on the course subject. Actual course SLOs should build on the kinds of themes illustrated by these examples.

1. Identify college degree requirements and develop a plan to meet a specific career goal.
2. Explore a career on an introductory level.
3. Develop sound work habits to promote a safe, environmentally responsible and productive work environment.

Area F: Intercultural Studies

Courses in intercultural studies focus instruction to increase students' understanding of and appreciation for diverse cultures and groups of people. History, customs, literary and artistic representations, and traditions are explained in these courses that address theoretical and analytical issues relevant to understanding race, culture, gender, sexuality, and ethnicity. Courses will be comparative among multiple ethnic and social groups.

MPC GEO Area F:

Upon successful completion of this area, students will have demonstrated an ability to examine interactions and interconnections across cultures.

The following examples illustrate the kinds of additional Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) that courses fulfilling the MPC GE Area F might include, depending on the course subject. Actual course SLOs should build on the kinds of themes illustrated by these examples.

1. Identify cultural differences by examining identities, beliefs, and behaviors of oneself and others as dynamic parts of culture in relation to people, language, ideas, values and customs.
2. Articulate major issues relevant to cultural interactions between race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality in the United States.
3. Examine how issues of class, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability, mixed race, language and other forms of identity help structure our common cultural experience.