

Appendix 2

General Education Outcomes

Georgia Southern University has identified ten categories of general education outcomes comprising knowledge, skills, and perspectives which it seeks to instill in its graduates. These are listed below with illustrative, but not exhaustive, descriptions and examples.

1. EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

Students will demonstrate **effective communication**:

- by their ability to conceive ideas about a topic, synthesize and arrange them logically, and express them clearly in both oral and written standard English.
- by oral and written competence in presenting opinions persuasively, in adapting communication to specific purposes and audiences, and in understanding opposing points of view.
- by their basic competency in at least one foreign language.

2. EFFECTIVE ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION

Students will demonstrate **effective analysis of information**:

- by their ability to recognize inconsistency in logic, to separate fact from opinion, to know the difference among theory, fact, and proof, and to organize, interpret, and communicate the results obtained by observation and experimentation.
- by their ability to identify and comprehend main and subordinate ideas in written works and to summarize the ideas in their own words; to draw conclusions from information found in a variety of written, numerical, and visual forms of data for the purposes of analysis, synthesis, and evaluation; and to read critically, seeing relationships among language, form, and content in expository and imaginative writing.
- by their ability to locate and integrate research materials and credit sources appropriately and responsibly with full attention to the standards of academic honesty and to use computers for basic information processing.

3. PROBLEM-SOLVING ABILITY

Students will demonstrate **problem-solving** ability by identifying and formulating problems and proposing and evaluating ways of solving them, including application of the scientific method and the principles of mathematics to real world situations and to problems in other disciplines.

4. INFORMED DECISION MAKING

Students will demonstrate **intelligent decision-making** by making informed decisions and recognizing the ethical dimensions of their decisions.

5. AESTHETIC APPRECIATION

Students will demonstrate **aesthetic appreciation** by their ability to address activity in the fine, literary, and performing arts as media for human expression.

6. RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP

Students will demonstrate **responsible citizenship** through active participation as a citizen, including:

- understanding and assuming, opportunities and responsibilities associated with being citizens of the U.S. and world community.
- recognizing ethical issues implicit in their personal behavior and in the operation of political, social, and economic institutions.
- examining their assumptions about themselves, about others as individuals, and about their society as a whole.

7. FAMILIARITY WITH MAJOR ISSUES

Students will demonstrate **familiarity with and some understanding of such major issues** facing all societies as:

- the growing global economic interdependence of world regions.
- ecological and environmental issues and alternatives.
- health issues (including those pertaining to human sexuality).
- the impact of emerging technologies.

8. BASIC AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE

Students will demonstrate **basic knowledge** in several cognitive areas:

- major developments in the history of the United States and of world civilization, both Western and non-Western.
- major economic, social, and political institutions of the United States and the world.
- representative literary and artistic achievements within their historical contexts.
- at least one area of science (biology, chemistry, geology, or physics).
- psychological, social, and cultural factors that affect individual and collective behavior.
- the physical diversity of the earth and the spatial relationships of people with their environment.

9. TOLERANCE AND UNDERSTANDING

Students will demonstrate **tolerance and understanding** through their comprehension of, and appreciation for, diversity in human behavior, points of view, and values.

10. WORTHY USE OF LEISURE

Students will demonstrate **worthy use of leisure** time:

- by valuing participation in fine and performing arts activities.
- by giving evidence of an increased curiosity for exploring new areas of knowledge.
- by valuing physical activity and its contribution to a healthy lifestyle