

General Education

Purpose

The primary purpose of this document is to provide a framework for assessment of general education. It supplements the Shippensburg University Catalog by providing additional information on the content of the current general education program – specifically, it provides material to supplement the catalog descriptions of Categories A through E.

Mission¹

The mission of General Education at Shippensburg University is

- to ensure an emphasis on liberal education at the University; and
- to provide breadth in the student's education, allowing the student to become an informed and literate member of society.

Liberal education...

1. has its foundation in study within and across the arts and sciences;
2. provides education beyond the mere acquisition of specific knowledge and skills;
3. prepares students to think, communicate, and understand broad issues beyond their major field of study, beyond their geographic locality, and beyond their own position in society;
4. prepares students for the challenges and choices they face throughout their lives, in all their various roles;
5. prepares students for life-long learning; and
6. provides skills, values, awareness, understanding, perspective, and appreciation for continuing growth in a rapidly changing world.

Goals

After completing the general education program, students should be able to...

1. demonstrate effective reading, writing, oral communications, and critical thinking;
2. demonstrate an understanding of ideas, events, persons and creative expressions from history;
3. use numerical data and mathematical methods for analysis and problem solving;

¹ The mission, description of liberal education, and goals of this document are taken from the SSHE Board of Governors Policy 1993-01, and from the current SU catalog, adapted to the current structure of general education at SU.

4. find and use information using abstract logical thinking, inductive reasoning, and critical analysis;
5. demonstrate an appreciation of and experience with literature and the arts;
6. demonstrate a basic understanding of the natural sciences and their significance in contemporary society;
7. demonstrate an awareness of the social, economic, political, and environmental interdependence of countries and regions of the world;
8. demonstrate an understanding of the social sciences and their significance in contemporary society; and
9. understand how people's experience and perspectives are shaped by gender, ethnicity, culture, and other factors.