

General Education Program Objectives
DRAFT STATEMENT

The General Education Program at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University provides a broad learner-centered experience to all undergraduate students. It promotes learning through an interdisciplinary approach. The General Education Program is designed to ensure that all graduates of the University possess abilities and talents that are necessary in a fast changing global society. These include communication skills; mathematical and scientific competence; ability to think critically; awareness of world cultures and especially, African and African American culture; and an ability to examine personal and social values and how these values are shaped by the global society.

Specific objectives of the General Education Program are stated below. Each objective is followed by a set of outcomes to measure achievement.

Objective 1

Effectively develop a written report or oral presentation that accommodates audience needs and shows a mastery of basic communications skills.

Outcomes

Written

- Produce documents based on an understanding of the needs and expectations of both a lay audience and their specific professional audience
- Construct and develop a clear argument, exposition, or analysis
- Demonstrate competence in the fundamentals of effective writing, including clear prose, effective organization, varied syntax, clear logic and standard spelling, punctuation, and grammar.

Oral

- Deliver presentations, both collaboratively and individually, that demonstrate a competence in the core presentation skills, including focus, organization, and delivery
- Summarize the main points of an oral presentation, judge the appropriateness of the presentation for the given audience, and judge the validity of the argument and supplemental material

Objective 2

Proficient in basic mathematical skills, be able to formulate problems mathematically, be able to use mathematical methods to solve original problems, and demonstrate an understanding of the nature of mathematical reasoning.

Outcomes

- Use the elements of basic mathematics to formulate and solve problems
- Critically analyze quantitative information (interpreting, making judgments, and drawing conclusions from quantitative material)

Objective 3

Demonstrate an understanding and application of scientific methodology, laboratory techniques, quantitative problem solving, modeling skills, and experimental design to formulate and evaluate hypotheses.

Outcomes

- Formulate hypotheses to explain natural and social phenomena
- Design experiments to evaluate hypotheses
- Execute experiments designed to validate hypotheses
- Apply mathematical concepts to evaluate experimental results

Objective 4

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of diverse cultures in a global world.

Outcomes

- Demonstrate knowledge of the diversity of values and traditions, including the contributions of diverse groups, which shape American society and institutions
- Demonstrate knowledge of the diverse values and cultures shaping societies and institutions in other countries including the contributions of diverse groups
- Demonstrate knowledge of contemporary, historical, social and political issues
- Interpret and evaluate issues from distinctive and differing points of view

Objective 5

Develop an understanding and awareness of African/African American culture:

Outcomes

- Demonstrate knowledge of African/African American history and culture
- Develop a frame of reference which makes it possible to identify and interpret critical social and political issues impacting African/African Americans
- Identify and describe the political, economic, and social challenges transforming modern continental Africa.

Objective 6

Demonstrate an appreciation of music, literature, and the fine arts.

Outcomes

- Develop an understanding of the interrelationships of literature, music, and the fine arts
- Identify, analyze, and appreciate diverse modes of aesthetic and artistic expression
- Develop an understanding of some of the basic ideas or concepts underlying world culture in literature, music and the fine arts
- Demonstrate dimensions of creativity beyond analytic thought, including imagination, intuition, and metaphor.

Objective 7

Examine issues involving values, ethics, and social responsibility in disciplined and critical ways.

Outcomes

- Identify, comprehend, analyze, and articulate ethical issues
- Appropriately use concepts and theories of human and social behavior in the construction of arguments
- Identify and describe the formal and informal social forces, structures and processes that contribute to the functioning of markets, governments, and other social systems.

Objective 8

Understand the psychological and physiological bases of a healthy mental and physical lifestyle.

Outcomes

- Explain the elements necessary to maintain a healthy lifestyle
- Describe the impact of diet, activity, and genetics on health