

## **Purpose and Objectives for General Education: (Gen Ed Review Committee 10/03/06)**

### **Purpose**

Consistent with Millersville University's mission to provide a liberal arts-based education, the purpose of General Education is to provide breadth of knowledge as a balance and complement to the depth provided by the major. This is necessary for the holistic development of Millersville graduates as responsible citizens.

### **General Education Objectives:**

Students, working with advisors, and taking into consideration prior knowledge and experience, purposefully select courses in the General Education curriculum that work together with required courses, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, and courses in the major to achieve the following objectives:

### **Foundations for Critical Thinking**

1. Students will think, speak and write clearly. This is evidenced by:
  - a) the clear presentation of ideas in formal spoken, written, and media forms.
  - b) the use of effective communication for ongoing dialogue.
  - c) the ability to find appropriate sources of information, evaluate that information, and integrate that information into a final product.

### **Critical Thinking in the Disciplines**

2. In mathematics students will:
  - a) employ statistical methods to analyze and interpret data or employ techniques of calculus to solve problems.
  - b) formulate and solve problems from the real world using the symbolic language of mathematics with technology as appropriate.
3. In social sciences students will:
  - a) evaluate relationships among human behavior, social institutions, culture, and/or environment using the quantitative and qualitative methods of inquiry of the social sciences and using technology as appropriate.
  - b) evaluate and apply social science data and theories in the course of participating as informed citizens in a democracy that exists within an increasingly complex global society.
4. In the sciences students will:
  - a) use the scientific method, laboratory study, appropriate technology, and mathematics to investigate and evaluate scientific concepts and theories.
  - b) evaluate and apply scientific data and theories.
5. In the humanities students will:
  - a) use critical analysis to respond thoughtfully to works of literature.
  - b) apply critical and creative methods of the arts and humanities using technology as appropriate.

### **Connections Within and Beyond The Classroom**

6. Students will connect important ideas and methods of inquiry from different disciplines as a means of becoming holistic and responsible citizens; specifically students will:
  - a) demonstrate civic and social responsibility.
  - b) grow in their engagement with peoples of diverse histories and communities, both inside and outside the United States.
  - c) build the foundation for a lifelong process of understanding, developing, and monitoring healthy lifestyle behaviors in all dimensions of wellness, including physical, social, emotional, intellectual, spiritual, and environmental wellness.
  - d) gain personal enrichment by developing new interests that can be enjoyed throughout a lifetime.