

## General Education Handbook

### GENERAL EDUCATION

The primary objective of general education is to provide students with the depth and breadth required to interact successfully with others as knowledgeable members of our diverse society. A general education helps students clarify and present their personal views. It should also instill values and ideas that will enrich the personal lives of students and help them understand their own abilities, feelings, and motives.

At Foothill College the general education curriculum is designed to help students understand relationships among various disciplines and appreciate and evaluate past experiences that form our cultural and physical heritage. This academic program is designed to help individuals reach their fullest potential as global citizens and lifelong learners for the 21st century.

### CRITERIA FOR GENERAL EDUCATION AT FOOTHILL COLLEGE

Courses in the general education curriculum:

1. Develop critical thinking skills and offer opportunities for their application.
2. Encourage the ability to make reasoned judgments and help students explore multiple ways of thinking.
3. Provide students with an understanding of the evolution of a subject area as well as current research in that area.
4. Offer and encourage an appreciation of the values of diverse cultures.
5. Offer opportunities to develop and apply numerical skills, quantitative reasoning, and problem solving using current technology.
6. Offer opportunities to develop and apply written, oral, and listening communication skills.
7. Lead students to an understanding of precepts of human knowledge in the artistic, literary, and/or scientific domains and other forms of creative thought.

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8. Teach students research methods, library and information literacy, and technology literacy as they learn to use the standard sources of information in a subject matter.
9. Introduce students to the information competency skills of finding, evaluating, using, and communicating information in all its various formats, including the evaluation of sources, as well as ethical and legal implications of the use of that information.
10. Assist students in understanding a particular subject area in its global context.
11. Present students with multiple frames of reference for responding to change and encourage openness to new ideas and circumstances.
12. Provide students with opportunities to foster intellectual curiosity as lifelong learners.
13. Lead students to an understanding of self and society.

Any course that fits within the general education pattern at Foothill College will meet the requirements of the narrative statement on page 2 of this document as well as the narrative for the general education section it satisfies. Additionally, it will meet a significant number of the criteria points in both the general and specific sections of this Handbook.

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