# mhcc philosophy of General Education

## MHCC Philosophy of General Education

Mt. Hood Community College holds that general education should accomplish two major objectives. One of these objectives is to provide students with knowledge that will help them attain their full potential as informed and responsible members of society. General education courses offer knowledge that enables students to communicate effectively, to explain relationships among societies, to articulate what it is to be human, to develop artistic expression, to analyze the natural world, and to make informed decisions about physical and mental health. A second purpose of general education is to equip students with the mental skills they must possess if they are to learn independently. Mental skills such as listening, speaking, writing, computing, analyzing, synthesizing and deliberating logically will enable students to learn on their own throughout their lives.

Mt. Hood Community College intends that students who complete general education classes in the various categories listed below shall possess the kinds of knowledge and the kinds of mental skills essential if they are to develop their potential as individuals and as citizens. General education requirements are aimed at conveying to students the knowledge that each person is valuable and that communities of people are valuable. They are designed to prepare students to promote their own personal well being and that of society.

A core of general education instruction permeates each of the college's five degrees (AAS, AGS, AA/OT, AS, AS/OT-Business), offering students many opportunities to acquire the knowledge and mental skills they must possess to become lifelong learners and responsible citizens. The core of general education instruction falls into the following five major categories:

**General education outcomes which apply to all degrees are listed below.**

**COMPUTER LITERACY**:

1. Utilize technology to find, retrieve, and evaluate information.
2. Implement problem-solving techniques and technology tools to collect, organize, analyze, and synthesize information from a variety of sources, including the Internet.
3. Employ technology to communicate knowledge and ideas through media for various purposes and audiences.
4. Utilize, manage, and adapt to changing technology in a learning environment, the workplace and daily life.
5. Utilize technology responsibly and demonstrate a recognition of and respect for the implications of its societal and environmental use.

**MATHEMATICS - COMPUTATION:**

1. Apply appropriate quantitative skills for personal, academic and career purposes.
2. Analyze, interpret and represent problem situations using numeric, graphic, algebraic, geometric and verbal models.
3. Create, read and interpret tables and graphs in various real-world contexts.
4. Determine if a solution is reasonable and independently verify the results.
5. Clearly communicate a problem-solving process, results and conclusions using quantitative methods and correct mathematical syntax appropriate to level of study.

**HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION**:

1. Design a lifetime physical fitness plan that provides growth and development in order to improve self-esteem and confidence.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of fitness and wellness concepts to allow a critical evaluation of personal lifestyle choices.

**INFORMATION LITERACY:**

1. Effectively locate, critically evaluate, and ethically use information to become an independent life-long learner.

**CRITICAL THINKING:**

1. Distinguish fact from non-factual opinion.
2. Identify underlying assumptions.
3. Demonstrate independent thinking in articulating and solving problems.

## Outcomes specific to the AAS and the AGS degrees are:

**COMMUNICATION:**

1. Read and listen actively to learn and communicate.
2. Speak and write effectively for personal, academic and career purposes.

**HUMAN RELATIONS:**

1. Recognize the values, behaviors and viewpoints of diverse populations.
2. Identify the individual's roles in social settings.

## Outcomes specific to the AA / OT, the AS, and the AS/OT-BUS are:

**ORAL COMMUNICATION:**

1. Recognize the verbal/non-verbal variables which affect global communication skills.
2. Analyze audiences when creating/performing oral presentations or engaging in interpersonal/intercultural interactions.
3. Create a personal "tool box" of communications skills.
4. Demonstrate the application of the personal tool box of communication skills in oral presentations.

**WRITING:**

1. Read and listen actively to learn and communicate.
2. Speak and write effectively for personal, academic and career purposes.

## Distribution requirement outcomes specific to the AA/OT, AS, AS/OT-Bus and AGS are:

**HUMANITIES**:

1. Compare and contrast values and ethics in an ever-changing community.
2. Use the creative process in exploring different ways of perceiving the world.
3. Demonstrate original thinking.

**MATHEMATICS; SCIENCE; COMPUTER SCIENCE**:

1. Apply the scientific method to ask questions, make decisions and solve problems.
2. Determine whether the result of a mathematical computation is realistic.
3. Collect, analyze and interpret scientific data to draw conclusions and make evidence-based decisions.
4. Communicate the role of science and mathematics in current societal issues.
5. Demonstrate an ability to work independently or collaboratively in a laboratory problem solving environment.

**THE SOCIAL SCIENCES**:

1. Apply knowledge of human behavior and social phenomena to social and community issues.
2. Recognize the values, behaviors and viewpoints of diverse populations.
3. Develop interdependent skills while functioning autonomously within the context of social systems.