

**General Studies Objectives**  
**General Studies Curriculum Category Goals and**  
**Essential Learning Outcomes**

**General Studies Objectives/ELOs**

Eight General Studies objectives overlap with 7 ELOs. However, no General Studies objective overlaps with **Program Competence**, which is associated with learning in a major area of study/discipline/field. **Teamwork and Collaboration**, which fits courses that include assignments requiring group projects, peer review, or workshops, and **Information Literacy and Research Skills**, which fits courses that require any form of research, evaluation of sources, citation, or integration of published work into a student-produced project, do not directly match a single General Studies objective, either; however, both may appear in a wide variety of courses across the General Studies curriculum.

The table below presents an alignment of General Studies objectives to ELOs.

General Studies Objectives	Essential Learning Outcomes
Objective 7: Development of a conceptual framework with which to assimilate new experiences—and the ability to adapt it as necessary.	Adapting to Change
Objective 8: Appreciation and understanding of artistic experiences as reflections of the depths and quirks of the human spirit.	Creativity & Innovation
Objective 3: Ability to reason logically and abstractly and to comprehend and criticize arguments.	Critical Thinking
Objective 5: Ability to write and speak effectively and persuasively.	Communication Skills
Objective 2: Commitment to citizenship, through the ability to make informed decisions about public issues—while conscious of one’s responsibility for doing so and of one’s responsibility as an individual for the social whole.  Objective 13: Critical understanding of one’s own values and those of others, and of their role in making ethical choices.	Ethical Reasoning
Objective 11: Awareness of the achievements and perspectives of people of different nations and cultures, and of different races, genders and ethnicities.	Global Awareness
Objective 4: Ability to understand numerical data so as to be able to comprehend arguments and positions that depend on numbers and statistics.	Quantitative Reasoning
These ELOs do not directly match a single General Studies objective; however, both may appear in a wide variety of courses across the General Studies curriculum.	Teamwork and Collaboration
	Information Literacy and Research Skills

### **General Studies Objectives/General Studies Curriculum Categories/ELOs**

Each of the General Studies curriculum categories has goals associated with interdisciplinarity and reinforcement of foundational knowledge as well as liberal arts values of broad inquiry, integrative learning, personal growth, and citizenship. In addition, each course category serves as an opportunity to experience one of the 5 General Studies objectives absent from the table above: GAH, objective 10; GEN, objective 1; GIS, objective 6; GNM, objective 9; and GSS, objective 12. Finally, each curriculum category suggests strong alignment with one or more ELO.

Every course in a curriculum category should offer students one or more of the learning experiences outlined below and associated with goals for that interdisciplinary curriculum category.

**GAH** General Arts and Humanities courses are designed

- to acquaint students with the arts and humanities
- to provide various cultural perspectives on the past and present (ELO: Global Awareness)
- to present historical knowledge of the continuities and conflicts common to humans across eras and cultures (General Studies objective 10)
- to explore techniques used to solve aesthetic challenges and to produce artistic work (ELO: Creativity and Innovation).

**GEN** General Interdisciplinary Skills and Topics courses are designed

- to emphasize the dynamic nature of education (ELO: Adapting to Change)
- to develop learning and communication skills (ELO: Communication Skills)
- to explore experimental ways of knowing
- to examine topics that cut across or lie outside traditional academic disciplines
- to develop commitment to lifelong learning (General Studies objective 1)
- to explore new ideas outside one's specialization
- to place knowledge in the context of other disciplines and of society as a whole.

**GIS** General Integration and Synthesis courses are designed as advanced courses for junior or senior students

- to deal with problems and questions larger than a single discipline
- to gain (reflective) perspective on the self, on disciplines of learning and their relationships, and on the recurrent concerns of humankind (General Studies objective 6)
- to bring together earlier General Studies experiences into an integrated framework (ELO: Critical Thinking).

**GNM** General Natural Sciences and Mathematics courses are designed

- to examine the broad concerns of science
- to explore the nature of scientific process and practice (General Studies objective 9)
- to provide students with an understanding of mathematics and the natural environment (ELO: Quantitative Reasoning)
- to acquire appreciation for how scientific knowledge of the physical and natural world is attained and evaluated.

**GSS** General Social and Behavioral Sciences courses are designed

- to assist students in understanding human interactions—how people live, produce, and resolve conflict as individuals and as groups
- to investigate problems and methods of concern to the social sciences (General Studies objective 12)
- to appreciate the techniques, findings and procedures of the social sciences as they relate to social structures and to evaluating issues of public policy (ELO: Ethical Reasoning).