

College Policy 3.04

General Education

Part 1. Philosophy of General Education

Central to the mission of Minneapolis Community and Technical College is the provision of general education as an integral part of award programs that are 15 or more credits in length. General education is the measurable knowledge, intellectual concepts, and attitudes that serve as the foundation to success within all programs of study and throughout life. General education prepares students to meet the social, personal, and career challenges they will face in the future.

Part 2. Core General Education Competencies

In line with this philosophy, MCTC has adopted four core general education competencies as a means to enhance lifelong education by making it possible for students to communicate effectively, think critically, solve problems as well as develop and demonstrate effective life skills, personal responsibility, and social responsibility.

Students will develop the following core competencies through a combination of appropriate general education coursework and through direct instruction and reinforcing projects and experiences within their program coursework.

- 1. Communication:** Effective listening, speaking, reading and/or writing. Successful completion of one course from MnTC Goal Area 1, as well as of tasks embedded within program coursework.
 - Selects appropriate communication choices for specific audiences.
 - Constructs logical and coherent arguments.
 - Demonstrates effective writing, speaking and reading skills.
 - Demonstrates appropriate listening, thinking, and responding.
- 2. Critical Thinking:** Ability to analyze, interpret, and apply learning in order to identify and solve problems, make judgments and decisions, act, and evaluate actions taken. Successful completion of tasks embedded within program coursework.
 - Compares and contrasts facts, propositions, options, situations and sources to gauge similarities, differences, priorities, connections and relationships.
 - Gathers, synthesizes and integrates input from diverse sources to formulate and support a position, plan an experiment, produce an oral presentation or written report, create a product or performance or propose hypotheses.
 - Assesses multiple perspectives on an issue, problem or undertaking, and articulates an understanding of the merit of diverse positions, attitudes or methods.
 - Applies a variety of rational, creative, emotional and technical approaches to question assumptions or practices; identify illogical thinking, manipulative language or bias; engage in artistic expression; or complete a task.
 - Applies knowledge, concepts, information, experience, theories and techniques to draw conclusions, arrive at solutions, or select a course of action.
- 3. Life Skills/Personal Responsibility:** Possessing the life skills necessary for leading a responsible life. Successful completion of tasks embedded within program coursework.
 - Works collaboratively.
 - Sets priorities, makes choices, accepts responsibility, and follows through.
 - Exhibits ethical behavior and respect for others.
 - Demonstrates behavior appropriate to specific contexts.

4. Social Responsibility: Ability and commitment to contribute to one's community as a responsible citizen. Successful completion of one course from MnTC Goal Area 7, 8, 9, or 10, as well as of tasks embedded within program coursework.

- Demonstrates an awareness of the individual and institutional dynamics of unequal power relations among groups in contemporary society.
- Recognizes, analyzes and articulates one's own beliefs and behaviors regarding racism, sexism and other forms of social inequality.
- Recognizes and values human diversity.
- Identifies a social issue and demonstrates an appropriate informed response.
- Identifies and demonstrates ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

Part 3. Two-Year Diploma and Degree Programs

Two-year diploma and degree programs must contain coursework that provide students with the skills to communicate effectively, think critically, solve problems, develop and demonstrate effective life skills, personal responsibility, and social responsibility.

Part 4. Two- and Three-Semester Programs

Two- and three-semester programs must contain coursework that provide students with the skills to communicate effectively, think critically, solve problems, develop and demonstrate effective life skills, and personal responsibility.

Part 5. Minnesota General Education Transfer Curriculum Requirement

In accordance with MnSCU Policy 3.21, Part 2 and as delineated in MCTC Policy 3.05, all award programs offered by MCTC must include coursework designated by the Minnesota General Education Transfer Curriculum (MnTC).

Date of Adoption: 7/1/1999

Date of Implementation (if different from adoption date):

Date of Last Review: 5/19/2009

Date and Subject of Revisions: