

# Butte College General Education Philosophy and Outcomes

General Education at Butte College involves much more than merely the acquisition of knowledge; it also involves utilization of that knowledge to achieve outcomes, solve problems, and reach transfer and career goals. More than that, the process promotes learning as a lifelong endeavor, one that will continue long after transfer to a four-year institution or the completion of a degree. General Education at Butte College is rooted in its mission, to “create a student-centered, community-based learning environment which empowers students to become productive, literate, and responsible members of a diverse society.” Carefully designed curriculum and exemplary teaching, coupled with effective and efficient student support services and administrative support, play integral roles in student success and are therefore central to what we do.

At the heart of the General Education experience itself is the basic content and methodology related to the Natural Sciences, the Social and Behavioral Sciences, the Humanities, English Composition, Communications and Analytical Thinking, Self-Integration, and Physical Education. Each of these areas has associated outcomes identified below. Students are further expected to meet minimum competency standards in the areas of Written Communication, Mathematics, Reading Comprehension, and Multicultural Awareness. As with the General Education areas, each of the competencies has associated outcomes, and those outcomes are identified below. Students successfully completing the General Education Requirements will be able to:

- 1) utilize knowledge gained during his or her educational experience when evaluating and appreciating the physical environment, the culture, and the society in which he or she lives.
- 2) demonstrate an increased level of self-understanding.
- 3) actively examine values inherent in proposed solutions to major social problems.

## **A - Natural Science**

A student completing courses in the Natural Sciences area will be able to:

1. demonstrate an appreciation and understanding of the scientific method; and
2. understand the relationships between science and other human activities.

## **B - Social and Behavioral Sciences**

A student completing courses in the Social and Behavioral Sciences area will be able to:

1. demonstrate an awareness of the method of inquiry used by the social and behavioral sciences;
2. think critically about the ways people act and have acted in response to their societies; and
3. appreciate how societies and social sub-groups operate.

## **C - Humanities**

A student completing courses in the Humanities area will be able to:

1. demonstrate an awareness of the ways in which people throughout the ages and in different cultures have responded to themselves and the world around them in artistic and cultural creation; and
2. demonstrate aesthetic understanding and an ability to make value judgments.

## **D - English Composition**

A student completing courses in the English Composition area will be able to:

utilize the principles and applications of the English language toward logical thought, clear and precise written expression, and critical evaluation of written communication, including both expository and argumentative writing.

## **E - Communications and Analytical Thinking**

A student completing courses in the Communication and Critical Thinking area will be able to:

demonstrate the principles and applications of language toward logical thought, clear and precise expression and critical evaluation of communication in whatever symbol system the student uses.

## **F - Self Integration and Physical Education**

### **Self Integration:**

A student completing courses in the Self-Integration area will be able to:

1. demonstrate an understanding of the human being as an integrated physiological, social, and psychological organism; and
2. consider a majority of the following topics as they relate to decision making; substance abuse, sexuality, nutrition, mental health, fitness, disease prevention, stress, health care (including the effects of environmental issues and consumerism) and instruction which results in increased sensitivity to issues of aging, death and dying.

### **Physical Education**

A student completing courses in the Physical Education area will be able to:

1. discuss the principles and benefits of lifelong fitness; and
2. assess his or her own physical activity level as it relates to lifelong fitness.