Pennsylvania Western University (PennWest)
General Education Program

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The General Education Program
at Pennsylvania Western University

Pennsylvania Western University (PennWest)
Mission Statement

PennWest encompasses campuses at California, Clarion and Edinboro. PennWest empowers students to build meaningful lives through a broad array of accredited programs, career focused learning and an unwavering focus on student success. A comprehensive institution, PennWest provides accessible, affordable higher education on its three premier residential campuses in western Pennsylvania and its global virtual campus.

PennWest General Education Mission Statement

Through PennWest University's General Education (Gen Ed) program, students build and strengthen foundational skills (**Foundations**); discover and explore the arts, the humanities, and the social and natural worlds (**Discoveries**); and develop and strengthen competencies key to a fulfilling career and engaged citizenship (**Competencies**).

PennWest General Education Outcomes

The outcomes of the PennWest Gen Ed program draw from and/or are required by 1) the Middles States Commission on Higher Education; 2) the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education *Board of Governors Policy 1993-01*; 3) the existing Gen Ed curricula of California University, Clarion University, and Edinboro University; and/or 4) the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) "career readiness competencies."

Among other requirements, the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education *Board of Governors Policy 1993-01* requires the "most important [Gen Ed] outcomes consist not so much in the mastery of particular bodies of knowledge as in the acquisition of skills, values, awareness, understanding, perspective, and appreciation needed for continuing professional and personal growth in a rapidly changing world."

Graduates of PennWest will possess knowledge and proficiency in the following:

> **Integrated knowledge.** Graduates possess a "broad knowledge of the wider world" across the areas of arts and humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences, as well as depth of knowledge in a specific discipline, and the "ability to apply knowledge and skills in real world settings." (PASSHE Policy 1993-01, quoting from AAC&U LEAP)

Critical thinking and problem solving. Graduates "identify and respond to needs based upon an understanding of situational context and logical analysis of relevant information." (NACE, 2021)

Written and oral communication. Graduates can communicate clearly and effectively in oral and written forms to multiple professional and non-professional audiences.

Information literacy. Graduates can effectively evaluate the quality and credibility of information sources and use information ethically and legally.

Technological literacy. Graduates "understand and leverage technologies ethically to enhance efficiencies, complete tasks, and accomplish goals." (NACE, 2021)

Quantitative and scientific reasoning. Graduates can effectively apply quantitative and scientific methods to evaluate information and draw conclusions to answer empirical questions.

Ethical reasoning. Graduates can effectively apply ethical principles in professional settings as individuals and as members of their communities.

Intercultural fluency. Graduates "[v]alue, respect, and learn from diverse cultures, races, ages, genders, sexual orientations, and religions. The individual demonstrates, openness, inclusiveness, sensitivity, and the ability to interact respectfully with all people and understand individuals' differences." (NACE, 2017)

Career management and professionalism. Graduates, "knowing work environments differ greatly, understand and demonstrate effective work habits, and act in the interest of the larger community and workplace." (NACE, 2021)

General Education Program Overview

Bachelor Degree Programs

The Gen Ed program for PennWest **bachelor-level** degrees is a **42-credit** curriculum with three primary components: **Foundations** (12 credits); **Discoveries** (27 credits); **Elective** (3 credits) and **Competencies** (as discussed on page 6).

Foundations (12 credits)

Written Communication	3 credits
Oral Communication	3 credits
Quantitative Reasoning	3 credits
Technological Literacy	3 credits

Discoveries (27 credits)

Arts & Humanities	9 credits
Social Sciences	9 credits
Natural Sciences and Technology	9 credits

Elective (3 credits)

Any course approved for Foundations or Discoveries	3 credits
OR	
Dimensions of Wellness and Health Option	3 credits

Competencies (8 courses)

Quantitative Application	1 course
Intercultural Fluency	1 course
Ethical Reasoning	1 course
Applied Methodologies	1 course
Information Literacy	1 course
Intensive Writing	2 courses
Keystone Experience	1 course

Bachelor Degree Programs

Features and requirements:

Foundations (12 credits)

Written Communication	3 credits
Oral Communication	3 credits
Quantitative Reasoning	3 credits
Technological Literacy	3 credits

Features and requirements:

- Students develop foundational skills by taking four courses designed to be taken during the beginning of a student's academic career.
- Students cannot take more than two courses (of three or four credits each) in a specific, or similar, course prefix to meet their Foundations requirements. For example, a student would not be permitted to take three English courses (approved for Foundations credit) to satisfy the written communication, oral communication, and technological literacy requirements.
- A specific course may be approved to fulfill Gen Ed requirements for both Foundations or Discoveries; however, a student may only use that course to satisfy **either** a Foundations or Discoveries requirement but not both.
- Foundations courses do not have course prerequisites. Mathematics courses are exempted from this requirement. Additionally, Foundations courses may have 'placement' requirements (for example, requiring the demonstration of minimum proficiency, through a placement exam, to take a certain course).

Discoveries (27 credits)

Arts & Humanities	9 credits
Social Sciences	9 credits
Natural Sciences and Technology	9 credits

Features and requirements:

- Students explore diverse areas of inquiry and develop "broad knowledge of the world" (PASSHE policy 1993-01) by taking 27 credits of Discoveries courses.
- Students cannot take more than two courses (of three/four credits each) in a specific course prefix to meet their Discoveries requirements. For example, a student could take two, but not three, psychology courses to meet the Discoveries- Social Sciences requirements.

- Degree programs can prescribe that majors take up to three specific Discoveries courses (of three/four credits each) (or take up to three courses among a range of Discoveries courses), but programs cannot prescribe more than two courses within a given Discoveries area. For example, the political science curriculum could prescribe that its majors take Macroeconomics (Social Sciences), Introduction to Sociology (Social Sciences), and Statistics (Natural Sciences and Technology), but not Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, and Introduction to Sociology (all Social Sciences).
- Discoveries courses may have no more than one course prerequisite. A Discoveries course may have additional prerequisites if 1) the additional prerequisite is a Foundations course and/or 2) the additional prerequisite is part of a unified, two-course introduction to a subject (such as General Chemistry I/II).
- Discoveries courses may not have registration rules, beyond course prerequisites, that limit enrollment to a subset of students (for example, 'admission to candidacy,' 'majors-only'). Honors courses are an exception to this rule.
- A specific course may be approved to fulfill the requirements for only one Foundations requirement or Discoveries subject area.

Elective or Dimensions of Wellness and Health (3 credits):

As a general education elective, students may take any course approved for Foundations or Discoveries. Students also have the option to take up to three credits of approved Dimensions of Wellness and Health courses in lieu of a Foundations or Discoveries elective.

Competencies (8 courses)

Quantitative Application	1 course
Intercultural Fluency	1 course
Ethical Reasoning	1 course
Applied Methodologies	1 course
Information Literacy	1 course
Intensive Writing	2 courses
Keystone Experience*	1 course

Features and requirements:

- Students will take a variety of courses that develop one or more competencies key to a fulfilling career and engaged citizenship in a dynamic world.
- Courses from all disciplines and course levels may be designated as developing one or two (but not more than two) competencies.

- Discoveries courses may also be designated as meeting one or two Competency requirements. For example, a sociology course may be a Discoveries- Social Sciences course and also one that meets the Competency- Intercultural Fluency.
- Foundations courses may not be designated as meeting Competency requirements.
- For the Quantitative Application, Intercultural Fluency, Ethical Reasoning, Applied Methodologies, and Information Literacy Competencies, a degree program can 1) require students to take a specific course (or course among a range of options) to meet the Competency or 2) permit the student to take any course (major, Discoveries, or free elective) that is designated to meet the Competency.
- At least one of the two Intensive Writing Competency courses must be taken within a student's degree program (which could be a specific course designated by the degree program or one of multiple Writing-Intensive-designated courses within the major).
- It is recommended that one Writing-Intensive designated course be taken within the first two years of student work and the other in the last two years of student work.
- *Students will satisfy the Keystone Experience Competency course requirement with a course within the student's degree program (for example, a capstone course, research experience, clinical training, student teaching, or internship).

Associate of Arts (A.A.) Degree Programs

The Gen Ed program for PennWest University's **Associate of Arts** degrees is a **30-credit** curriculum with three primary components: **Foundations** (12 credits); **Discoveries** (18 credits); and **Competencies** (five courses that also meet other Gen Ed, major, or free elective requirements).

Foundations

Written Communication	3 credits
Oral Communication	3 credits
Quantitative Reasoning	3 credits
Technological Literacy	3 credits

Discoveries

Arts & Humanities	3 credits
Social Sciences	3 credits
Natural Sciences and Technology	3 credits
Flex Credits	9 credits

Competencies

Intercultural Fluency	1 course
Ethical Reasoning	1 course
Applied Methodologies	1 course
Information Literacy	1 course
Intensive Writing	1 course

Distinct features and requirements:

- **Flex Credits within Discoveries**: Students take, at a minimum, three credits of Arts and Humanities, three credits of Social Sciences, and three credits of Natural Sciences and Technology courses. Students also take an additional six credits of courses from any of the three Discoveries subject areas. For example, a student could take a total of six credits of Arts and Humanities, three credits of Social Sciences, and six credits of Natural Sciences and Technology courses.
- **Dimensions of Wellness and Health option:** Students may satisfy up to three of their six Flex Credits requirements with an approved "Dimension of Wellness and Health" course.

Associate of Science (A.S.) Degree Programs

The Gen Ed program for PennWest University's **Associate of Science** degrees is a **24-credit** curriculum with three primary components: **Foundations** (12 credits); **Discoveries** (12 credits); and **Competencies** (four courses that also meet other Gen Ed, major, or free elective requirements).

Foundations

Written Communication	3 credits
Oral Communication	3 credits
Quantitative Reasoning	3 credits
Technological Literacy	3 credits

Discoveries

Arts & Humanities	3 credits
Social Sciences	3 credits
Natural Sciences and Technology	3 credits

Elective	3 credits
Any course approved for Foundations or Discoveries	

Competencies

Intercultural Fluency *or* Ethical Reasoning	1 course
Applied Methodologies	1 course
Information Literacy	1 course
Intensive Writing	1 course

Associate of Applied Sciences (A.A.S.) Degree Programs

The Gen Ed program for PennWest University's **Associate of Science** degrees is a **21-credit** curriculum with three primary components: **Foundations** (12 credits); **Discoveries** (9 credits); and **Competencies** (four courses that also meet other Gen Ed, major, or free elective requirements).

Foundations

Written Communication	3 credits
Oral Communication	3 credits
Quantitative Reasoning	3 credits
Technological Literacy	3 credits

Discoveries

Flex Credits*	9 credits

Competencies

Intercultural Fluency *or* Ethical Reasoning	1 course
Applied Methodologies	1 course
Information Literacy	1 course
Intensive Writing	1 course

*Flex Credits within Discoveries: Students also take six credits of courses from any of the three Discoveries subject areas (one from two Discoveries categories or two from one category). For example, a student could take a total of three credits of Arts and Humanities and three credits of Social Sciences, or all six credits of Natural Sciences and Technology courses. The Dimensions of Wellness and Health option is not available for students in this degree track.

Specialized Associate of Science (A.S.) Degree Programs

The Gen Ed Program of PennWest University's **Specialized Associate of Science** degrees is a **21-credit** curriculum with three primary components: **Foundations** (9 credits); **Discoveries** (12 credits); and **Competencies** (three courses that also meet other Gen Ed, major, or free elective requirements). Specialized associate degrees may be authorized within certain professions; some are career entry, and others lead to transfer. Examples include the Associate in Science in Nursing (A.S.N.) and Associate in Engineering Technology (A.E.T.)

Foundations

Written Communication	3 credits
Oral Communication	3 credits
Quantitative Reasoning	3 credits

Discoveries

Flex Credits*	12 credits

Competencies

Intercultural Fluency *or* Ethical Reasoning	1 course
Laboratory Experience	1 course
Information Literacy	1 course

*Flex Credits within Discoveries: Students also take twelve credits of courses from any of the three Discoveries subject areas with no more than six credits from any one category. For example, a student could take a total of six credits of Social Sciences and an additional six credits of Natural Sciences and Technology courses. The Dimensions of Wellness and Health option is not available for students in this degree track.

Descriptions of Specific General Education Requirements

This section contains descriptions of specific Gen Ed requirements within Foundations, Discoveries, and Competencies, including educational goals, assessment requirements, and other course requirements or restrictions.

For any course to be designated as meeting a specific Gen Ed requirement, it must be approved through PennWest University's official curricular approval process.

Course Objectives are category-specific learning activities that students complete while taking a course. By completing Course Objectives, students acquire the measurable skills listed as Course Outcomes.

Course Outcomes are transferable skills that students will apply in future classes, careers, and life activities. Each Course Outcome is assessed to determine students' success in acquiring and applying the skill.

Program Outcomes are the higher-order skill sets that students build gradually as they progress through the Gen Ed Program: Integrated Knowledge, Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Written and Oral Communication, Information Literacy, Technological Literacy, Quantitative and Scientific Reasoning, Ethical Reasoning, Intercultural Fluency, and Career Management and Professionalism. Each Course Outcome contributes to one or more Program Outcomes

Foundations

Oral Communication (3 credits)

In Oral Communication courses, students will generate, explore, organize, and convey ideas orally, using language and other media (for example, digital texts, images, and graphs) to present those ideas clearly, confidently, and in a manner appropriate to discipline-specific and professional contexts.

Course Objectives – Oral Communication

Students taking Oral Communication courses will:

- Apply critical thinking skills when listening, reading, thinking and speaking.
- Demonstrate discipline-based general theories in public and professional speaking, including ethical standards and proper citations.
- Construct, arrange, and deliver oral arguments and presentations based upon appeals, evidence, and information.

- Communicate with audiences other than students' peers (for example, professional audiences, general audiences, and/or audiences whose life experiences are significantly different from students' own).

Course Outcomes – Oral Communication
- Communicate clearly in oral presentation.
- Organize and present information in a logical manner.

Written Communication (3 Credits)

In the Written Communication course, students develop the writing skills needed to prepare expository and narrative writing assignments, including college-level themes and essay examinations.

Course Objectives – Written Communication

Students taking Written Communication courses will:

- Analyze the elements of the writing situation (subject, purpose, audience) as a foundation for writing.
- Apply rhetorical strategies in writing.
- Develop foundational skills in writing from sources, including introductory-level skills in research and synthesis.
- Write a complete essay consisting of an introduction, support paragraphs, and conclusion; this process will include prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing.

Course Outcomes – Written Communication

- Organize information in a logical manner to support a central point or purpose.
- Communicate clearly in prose that meets conventions of professional English.

Quantitative Reasoning (3 Credits)

Courses in Quantitative Reasoning establish a foundational skill for many educational and occupational activities and develop a student's basic problem-solving skills.

Course Objectives – Quantitative Reasoning

Students taking Quantitative Reasoning courses will:

- Apply appropriate quantitative strategies to solve problems.
- Use mathematical arguments and proofs.
- Express ideas precisely using the language of mathematics.

Course Outcomes – Quantitative Reasoning

- Use quantitative methods to solve a problem

Technological Literacy (3 Credits)

Continual advances in technology are changing the way students learn, connect, and interact every day. Technological Literacy creates a foundation on how to use tools, resources, processes, and systems to change or control natural and/or artificial environments, thus altering the human condition (International Technology Education Association). Courses in Technological Literacy will give students a foundation of knowledge in a technology or set of technologies that can be applied to a broad range of disciplines and situations, as opposed to extensive knowledge in a single specialized software.

Course Objectives – Technological Literacy

Students taking Technological Literacy courses will:

- Test and analyze various technologies and systems to solve technological problems.
- Identify implications of technological changes as they relate to and determine impacts on individuals, society, the environment, and the future.
- Apply knowledge of technologies to many areas of life (both personally and professionally).

Course Outcomes – Technological Literacy

- Use technology to solve a problem.

Discoveries

Arts and Humanities (9 Credits)

Arts and humanities courses explore human values, beliefs, culture, experiences, and creative expression.

Course Objectives – Arts and Humanities

Students taking Arts and Humanities courses will:

- Present, critique and analyze human values, beliefs or emotions regarding the human condition as they are conceptualized, formulated, and expressed through language and/or the senses.
- Demonstrate how critical analysis and reasoning are used to address problems related to course topic.
- Compare, contrast, and analyze creative and/or historical works among cultures.

Course Outcomes – Arts and Humanities
- Analyze human values, beliefs, and experiences.

Social Sciences (9 Credits)

In Social Science courses, students will explore the components, processes, development, dynamics, and/or impacts of individual and collective human behavior.

Course Objectives – Social Sciences

Students taking Social Sciences courses will:

- Use the knowledge and methods of a social science discipline to describe, explain, and predict human beliefs, behavior, and institutions.
- Apply discipline-based social science methods to address empirical and/or normative questions or issues.

Course Outcomes – Social Sciences
- Apply discipline-based social science methods to address an empirical and/or normative question or issue.

Natural Sciences and Technology (9 Credits)

The natural sciences seek to understand the processes, components, and dynamics of the natural world, while technology involves using tools, resources, processes, and systems to change or to control the natural and/or artificial environment, thus altering the human condition.

Course Objectives – Natural Sciences and Technology

Students taking Natural Science and Technology courses will:

- Understand, analyze, and evaluate models, theories, and laws by which science and technology seek to explain natural or technological phenomena.

- Apply scientific and/or technology concepts and knowledge as they relate to research, problem solving, and effective decision making.
- Recognize the limitations of data and explore alternative interpretations.
- Identify and assess the basis of scientific and technological issues which affect society.

Course Outcomes – Natural Sciences and Technology

- Apply scientific and/or technological concepts and knowledge as they relate to research, problem solving, and effective decision making.

Dimensions of Wellness and Health Option

Dimensions of Wellness and Health courses provide students with direct instruction and practice regarding physical and psychological well-being. Students may choose from a variety of courses that cover selected topics related to contemporary dimensions of wellness, including individual wellness, community wellness, strength and fitness, financial wellness, media wellness, cyber wellness, family wellness, and mental health.

Course Objectives – Dimensions of Wellness and Health

Students taking Dimensions of Wellness and Health courses will:

- Identify and practice healthy skills, attitudes and behaviors related to the course topic.
- Recognize elements of heathy behavior in individuals and communities related to the course topic.
- Assess their own personal wellness related to the course topic.
- Identify and explain ways to maintain wellness related to their specific course content.
- Critique elements of existing wellness plans.
- Design a plan for improving and maintaining personal wellness related to the course topic.

Course Outcomes – Dimensions of Wellness and Health

- Implement strategies for wellness and health.

Competencies

Quantitative Applications (One course)

In Quantitative Application courses students apply quantitative reasoning to further develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills through analysis of discipline-specific real-world problems.

Course Objectives – Quantitative Applications

Students taking Quantitative Application courses will:

- Use quantitative concepts of functions and relations to model, analyze and solve problems.
- Apply quantitative reasoning to draw and support appropriate conclusions.
- Interpret, analyze, and construct quantitative models in a range of familiar and unfamiliar contexts (physical, social, other phenomena, etc.).

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Course Outcomes – Quantitative Applications

- Solve a multi-step problem using quantitative methods.

Applied Methodologies (One course)

Applied Methodologies courses allow students to use systematic investigation in support of scientific reasoning through discipline-based primary research. An Applied Methodologies course must include multiple experiences/activities that fulfill Applied Methodologies educational goals and assess student performance. Applied Methodologies skill development is inclusive of courses across traditional science and non-science disciplines.

Assessment of applied research, observations, activities must comprise no less than 25% of a student's overall grade in a four-credit course; no less than 33% in a three-credit course; and 100% of a student's grade in a one-credit course.

Course Objectives –Applied Methodologies

Students taking Applied Methodologies courses will:

- Use discipline-specific methodologies and practices to systematically investigate the world.
- Organize data into trends and patterns using quantitative and/or qualitative methods (spatial, graphical, symbolic, etc.) to sort, analyze, and interpret phenomena.
- Assess differences between theory and results.
- Communicate results of a set of applied research, observations, activities.

Course Outcomes – Applied Methodologies

- Gather and interpret empirical data.
- Support a conclusion with qualitative and/or quantitative data.

Intercultural Fluency (One course)

In Intercultural Fluency courses, students engage diverse ways of living and thinking that are rooted in the distinct experiences and dynamics of societies, groups, and individuals.

Course Objectives – Intercultural Fluency

Students taking Intercultural Fluency courses will:

- Consider the multiple factors that impact the development and dynamics of cultures, as well as individuals and groups within and across the.m
- Compare the impact of multiple factors (historical, political, sociological, philosophical, economic, aesthetic, etc.) on the lived experience of individuals and groups within and across cultures.
- Explore the root causes and dynamics of intercultural misunderstanding, prejudice, and inequity.
- Explore means by which to address intercultural misunderstanding, prejudice, and inequity.

Course Outcomes – Intercultural Fluency

- Analyze multiple cultural perspectives and experiences.

Ethical Reasoning (One course)

In ethical reasoning courses, students identify, assess, and develop ethical arguments from a variety of perspectives.

Course Objectives – Ethical Reasoning

Students taking Ethical Reasoning courses will:

- Examine the basic principles and reasoning common to ethical systems
- Analyze how ethical principles and reasoning are developed within cultural and/or disciplinary contexts.
- Apply ethical principles to address real-world or hypothetical dilemmas.

Course Outcomes – Ethical Reasoning

- Apply ethical reasoning to a real-world or hypothetical problem.

Information Literacy (One course)

In Information Literacy courses, students develop skills in finding, evaluating, using, producing, and distributing information.

Course Objectives – Information Literacy

Students taking Information Literacy courses will:

- Demonstrate basic research techniques appropriate to the course discipline.
- Assess the validity and credibility of sources.
- Identify proper resources from a variety of information sources.
- Ethically integrate appropriate sources related to a course topic.
- Apply ethical procedures in synthesizing information from a variety of sources.

Course Outcomes – Information Literacy

Each Information Literacy course will include at least one assignment in which students:

- Evaluate the quality and credibility of information sources.
- Use information sources ethically and legally.

Writing Intensive (Two courses)

Writing Intensive courses provides students with direct instruction and practice in research writing, professional writing, and/or discipline-specific writing.

In a Writing Intensive course, each student will produce at least 20 pages of formal writing, which may be achieved through multiple assignments of varying length.

It is recommended that at least one writing-intensive course is taken within the first two years of student work and the other taken in the last two years of student work. Students must take at least one Writing Intensive course within their major.

A degree program can require that both Writing Intensive courses be taken within the major (two specific courses; one specific course and a range of options; or a range of options for both courses). If the degree program requires only one major-specific course, a degree program can 1) leave the choice of the remaining Writing Intensive course to the student; or 2) designate a specific Writing Intensive course (or range of

options) outside of the major (subject to program limitations on prescribing of Gen Ed courses).

Writing Intensive courses are suggested to be capped at 25 students to ensure meaningful instructor feedback, revision, and resubmission in accordance with National Council of Teachers of English guidelines

Course Objectives – Writing Intensive

Students taking Writing Intensive courses will:

- Apply standard practices in research writing, professional writing, and/or discipline-specific writing.
- Revise formal writing on the basis of meaningful feedback.
- Design written work that communicates effectively with audiences other than students' peers (for example, professional audiences, general audiences, and/or audiences whose life experiences are significantly different from students' own).

Course Outcomes – Writing Intensive

- Communicates clearly in research, professional, or discipline-specific writing.
- Creates and sustains a compelling central message or purpose.
- Communicates effectively with audiences other than their peers (for example, professional audiences, general audiences, and/or audiences whose life experiences are significantly different from their own).

Keystone Experience (One course)

Students will take a culminating ("Keystone") course in which students demonstrate the ability to synthesize information and ideas within and across disciplines; apply the advanced knowledge and skills they have developed in their major discipline and their Gen Ed coursework; and engage in reflective thinking.

Keystone Experience courses may include capstone courses, internships, clinical training, student teaching, experiential learning, research, senior projects, performances, service-learning experiences, independent studies, senior seminars, study abroad, and comparable opportunities.

Students will take a Keystone Experience course as part of their major program of study, usually at the senior level.

Courses designated as a Keystone Experience must be a 3000+ numbered course.

Course Objectives – Keystone Experience

Students taking Keystone Experience courses will:

- Synthesize information and ideas within and/or across disciplines.
- Apply problem solving and/or critical analysis skills using a variety of methods and tools.
- Demonstrate information literacy skills.
- Address and/or analyze a problem to generate new insights.

Course Outcomes – Keystone Experience

- Synthesizes information from multiple sources.
- Applies problem solving and/or critical analysis skills.
- Generates new knowledge, a new creative work, or a new product.

Course Outcomes Mapped to Program Outcomes

Each overall program outcome is supported by at least two course outcomes from at least two different course types (Foundations, Discoveries, and Competencies), creating a developmental progression of transferable skills.

Integrated knowledge. Graduates possess a "broad knowledge of the wider world" across the areas of arts and humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences, as well as depth of knowledge in a specific discipline, and the "ability to apply knowledge and skills in real world settings." (PASSHE, quoting from AAC&U LEAP)

- **Discoveries:**

    - Arts & Humanities: Analyze human values, beliefs, and experiences.
    - Social Sciences: Apply discipline-based social science methods to address an empirical and/or normative question or issue.
    - Natural Sciences and Technology: Apply scientific and/or technological concepts and knowledge as they relate to research, problem solving, and effective decision making.

- **Competencies:**

    - Keystone Experience: Generate new knowledge, a new creative work, or a new product.

Critical thinking and problem solving. Graduates "identify and respond to needs based upon an understanding of situational context and logical analysis of relevant information." (NACE, 2021)
.
- **Competencies:**
    - Information Literacy: Evaluate the quality and credibility of information sources.
    - Applied Methodologies: Support a conclusion with qualitative and/or quantitative data.
    - Quantitative Application: Solve a real-world problem using quantitative methods.
    - Keystone Experience: Synthesize information from multiple sources.
    - Keystone Experience: Generate new knowledge, a new creative work, or a new product.
    - Keystone Experience: Apply problem solving and/or critical analysis skills.

Written and oral communication. Graduates can communicate clearly and effectively in oral and written forms to multiple professional and non-professional audiences.

- **Foundations:**

  - Oral Communication: Communicate clearly in oral presentation.
  - Oral Communication: Organize and present information in a logical manner.
  - Written Communication: Communicate clearly in prose that meets conventions of professional English.
  - Written Communication: Organize and present information in a logical manner.

- **Competencies:**

  - Writing Intensive: Communicate clearly in research, professional, or discipline-specific writing.
  - Writing Intensive: Create and sustain a compelling central message or purpose.
  - Writing Intensive: Communicate effectively with audiences other than students' peers (e.g. professional audiences, general audiences, and/or audiences whose life experiences are significantly different from students' own).

Information literacy. Graduates can effectively evaluate the quality and credibility of information sources and use information ethically and legally.

- **Competencies:**

  - Information Literacy: Evaluate the quality and credibility of information sources.
  - Information Literacy: Use information sources ethically and legally.
  - Keystone Experience: Synthesize information from multiple sources.

Technological literacy. Graduates "understand and leverage technologies ethically to enhance efficiencies, complete tasks, and accomplish goals." (NACE, 2021)

- **Foundations:**

  - Technological Literacy: Use technology to solve a problem.

- **Discoveries:**

  - Natural Sciences and Technology: Apply scientific and/or technological concepts and knowledge as they relate to research, problem solving, and effective decision making.

Quantitative and scientific reasoning. Graduates can effectively apply quantitative and scientific methods to evaluate information and draw conclusions to answer empirical questions.

- **Foundations:**

  - Quantitative Reasoning: Use quantitative methods to solve a problem.

- **Discoveries:**

  - Social Sciences: Apply discipline-based social science methods to address an empirical and/or normative question or issue.
  - Natural Sciences and Technology: Apply scientific and/or technological concepts and knowledge as they relate to research, problem solving, and effective decision making.

- **Competencies:**

  - Quantitative Application: Apply quantitative methods to solve a real-world problem.
  - Applied Methodologies: Gather and interpret empirical data.
  - Applied Methodologies: Support a conclusion with qualitative and/or quantitative data.

Ethical reasoning. Graduates can effectively apply ethical principles in professional settings as individuals and as members of their communities.

- **Discoveries:**

  - Arts & Humanities: Analyze human values, beliefs, and experiences.
  - Social Sciences: Apply discipline-based social science methods to address an empirical and/or normative question or issue.

- **Competencies:**

  - Ethical Reasoning: Apply ethical reasoning to a real-world or hypothetical problem.

Intercultural fluency. Graduates: "Value, respect, and learn from diverse cultures, races, ages, genders, sexual orientations, and religions. The individual demonstrates, openness, inclusiveness, sensitivity, and the ability to interact respectfully with all people and understand individuals' differences." (NACE)

- **Discoveries:**

    - Arts & Humanities: Analyze human values, beliefs, and experiences.
    - Social Sciences: Apply discipline-based social science methods to address an empirical and/or normative question or issue.

- **Competencies:**

    - Intercultural Fluency: Implement awareness of differing cultural, ethical, and/or disciplinary perspectives and experiences.

The PennWest General Education Working Group also made recommendations regarding a general education committee and general education assessment. Those recommendations have been preserved and will be forwarded for consideration to the PennWest University-Wide Curriculum Committee once elected and in place.