

# GENERAL EDUCATION

## COLLEGE OF MARIN'S COMMITMENT TO AN EXCELLENT EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Students come to College of Marin to achieve a wide variety of goals, including obtaining foundational skills in Math, English and ESL, Career or Technical training, an A.A. or A.S. degree, and transfer, as well as for lifelong learning and cultural enrichment. No matter what a student's reasons are, the college is committed to the educational growth of all undergraduates and the development of the following academic skills that allow students to pursue any major:

### Written, Oral and Visual Communication

Communicate effectively in writing, orally and/or visually using traditional and/or modern information resources and supporting technology.

### Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning

Locate, identify, collect, and organize data in order to then analyze, interpret or evaluate it using mathematical skills and/or the scientific method.

### Critical Thinking

Differentiate between facts, influences, opinions, and assumptions to reach reasoned and supportable conclusions.

### Problem Solving

Recognize and identify the components of a problem or issue, look at it from multiple perspectives and investigate ways to resolve it.

### Information Literacy

Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate and apply information from a variety of sources - print and/or electronic.

## COLLEGE OF MARIN GENERAL EDUCATION STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

While college students choose a specific field of study, part of their educational experience and requirements include a program of general education. This well-rounded, student-driven educational package is intended to be complementary to, but different in emphasis from, the specialized education received for a job or a profession, or from focusing on a particular field of study. By completing a general education program, students expand their knowledge of the content and method-

ologies in a variety of disciplines. College of Marin expects students to:

- Become effective written, oral and visual communicators for many audiences;
- Be flexible, curious, and open to new experiences;
- Recognize how they connect to and affect their community and the world beyond;
- Enhance economic survival skills for the workplace and marketplace;
- Think critically, ethically, independently, and creatively about a variety of topics that will be useful to them in the real world and hone these thinking skills in a way which can be used throughout their life;
- See the interconnectedness of topics and use multiple disciplines to help achieve deeper understanding of past, present and future events at local, national and global levels;
- Become a more widely informed citizen who appreciates the importance of intellectual, scientific and artistic accomplishments;
- Engage in healthful living and wellness physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially.

## COLLEGE OF MARIN GENERAL EDUCATION OUTCOMES

### A. NATURAL SCIENCES

These courses examine the physical universe, its life forms and natural phenomena and enable students to develop a greater appreciation of the world around them. Through exposure to the broad range of sciences—physical science, biological science, and earth science—students learn how to acquire scientific information to develop their understanding of the nature of science and the relationship between humans and the natural world.

In the courses listed for this area, students learn to:

- Apply the scientific method to explore physical and biological phenomena, including observation, hypothesis development, measurement, data collection, experimentation and analysis.
- Articulate core concepts in a biological or physical science discipline.

### B. SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

These courses examine people as members of society by exploring the diversity in peoples, cultures, politics, histories, and the complex forces that influence individuals and groups as well as shape and change human societies. These courses teach students how to evaluate these concepts through scientific and social inquiry.

In the courses listed for this area, students learn to:

- Apply the approaches social and behavioral scientists use to explore social phenomena and human behavior, including observation, hypothesis development, measurement, data collection, experimentation, evaluation of evidence, and analysis.
- Analyze and articulate core concepts in a specific social or behavioral science discipline.

### C. ARTS AND HUMANITIES

The arts and humanities study human culture, creativity, and thought in all its forms, including significant works of art, literature, performance, language, and philosophy from around the world. An arts and humanities education may also include creating aesthetic works to develop a broader contextual understanding of the arts.

In the courses listed for this area, students learn to:

- Recognize, analyze, and reflect on significant cultural works.
- Foster a greater understanding of aesthetic, intellectual, linguistic, political, and religious dimensions of various cultures.

### D. WRITTEN COMPOSITION

The study of written composition helps students build the skills and strategies necessary to read and write at the college level and in everyday life.

In the courses listed for this area, students learn to:

- Communicate complex ideas to a variety of audiences through clear and effective writing.
- Support one's ideas with compelling, logical, and credible evidence and analysis from readings and research.
- Develop a successful writing process adaptable to diverse writing situations.
- Document sources appropriately to build credibility as a scholar.