

Current Core Educational Outcomes
(Page 29, PGCC Course Catalog, 2007-2008)

In addition to supporting specific degree programs, general education courses also provide a liberal education and contribute to the development of critical thinking skills that identify an individual as a college graduate. The combination of courses that PGCC degree graduates have taken encompasses a core of educational outcomes, which are intended to provide students with the ability to:

1. Communicate effectively in standard oral and written English
2. Comprehend, analyze and interpret written materials
3. Reason abstractly and think critically
4. Use appropriate methods of quantitative reasoning to understand, interpret and manipulate numerical data
5. Understand and apply the scientific method
6. Recognize core values of various cultures and display sensitivity in a global environment
7. Understand the nature and value of the fine, literary and performing arts
8. Demonstrate informational literacy and apply technological competencies to access, evaluate and communicate information
9. Apply ethical standards and value judgments to decision making

The Proposed Changes

A Prince George's Community College general education is designed to enhance intellectual competencies essential to the college learning process. This demanding process is a proactive, critical, self-correcting, and creative one that requires its practitioners to be self-directed, mindful, engaged, and imaginative. Because this process is valuable in and of itself as well as in terms of its results, it also requires that its practitioners learn how to learn and thus think about how to think, so that they may best choose what to learn and think. General education at PGCC aims to elevate the whole person and thereby enables its graduates to not simply meet college academic standards, but to succeed throughout their chosen career by being ethically responsible and civically engaged citizens in our culturally diverse world.

Students who successfully complete programs at PGCC will be critical thinkers who will be able to:

1. Write and speak in standard English at the college level
2. Read and analyze college-level materials
3. Recognize the need for information and locate, evaluate the validity of, and effectively use this information
4. Comprehend mathematical concepts and methods and engage in quantitative reasoning to interpret, analyze, and solve problems
5. Explain natural processes and analyze issues using appropriate evidence, employing the principles of the biological, physical, and behavioral sciences
6. Analyze the principles of the social sciences and differentiate among the core values and traditions of various cultures within the global environment
7. Comprehend the nature and value of the fine, literary, and performing arts and relate them to human experiences
8. Utilize computer software and other technologies to enhance college-level learning and communication
9. Evaluate ethical principles and rank them in professional and personal decision-making