

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF GENERAL EDUCATION**

### **PRINCE GEORGE'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

General education is a balanced and rigorous academic program in which all degree-seeking students will be exposed to a common body of skills, knowledge, and values that will form the basis for lifelong learning. This learning experience is characterized by breadth as well as depth, and so requires fluency in the numerous foundational skills upon which all disciplines rely and the specific knowledge that any one discipline requires. General education additionally encourages ethical deliberation and decision-making in preparation for participation as responsible citizens in a democratic society of diverse values amid a rapidly changing and technologically-driven world.

General education:

- Conveys a set of skills, knowledge and values that enable success in any major and are necessary tools for contemporary life
- Provides opportunities to expand one's worldview beyond any given discipline and so become a well-rounded person
- Develops the confidence to think independently and the maturity to act responsibly
- Enables one to identify and further explore areas of possible academic interest
- Prepares one to formulate, research, communicate, and defend reasoned positions, regardless of one's own beliefs
- Offers opportunities to question critically and challenge thoughtfully opinions, beliefs, and theories in multiple areas of study
- Prepares one to act ethically by identifying and evaluating one's values and place in the world
- Demonstrates the relevance of intellectual principles to one's personal and professional life
- Promotes a shared knowledge of cultural references that enables common understanding
- Enables the appropriate use of technology in the search for and application of information