

Role of General Education in the Applied Associate in Arts & Sciences (AAA / AAS) Degrees

General Education in the Wisconsin Technical College System provides a core of knowledge that imparts the common skills, intellectual concepts, and attitudes that every educated person should possess. General Education provides explicit instruction in the essential lifelong skills required for success in careers, at home, in a community, and in society. These skills, concepts, and attitudes, regularly identified by employers, employees, and educators, and which interact and interrelate, are broadly defined as follows.

Communication:

- Effectively conveys meaning through reading, writing, speaking, and listening
- Demonstrates the communication skills essential to seek, maintain, and enhance employment
- Displays effective communication skills vital to success at home, in a community, and in the global society

Critical Thinking/Problem Solving:

- Makes decisions through multiple perspectives, logic, judgment, and creativity
- Demonstrates an ability to analyze information and to design solutions, individually and within a team
- Transfers learning and knowledge from one situation to another
- Uses multiple investigative strategies including accessing, evaluating, and processing information when problem solving
- Makes informed decisions based on an understanding of cause and effect relationships

Ethics:

- Expresses appropriate social, professional, and work ethics
- Demonstrates responsibility, dependability, and respect for self and others

Global Awareness:

- Demonstrates an understanding of historical and environmental perspectives, interdependence, and the interrelatedness of world cultures and systems
- Uses an understanding of global economic systems as a reflective guide to decision-making
- Demonstrates responsibility, sustainability, and respect for the global environment and future generations

Inclusive Social Interaction:

- Functions effectively within, and demonstrates a commitment to, a diverse and multi-cultural society
- Functions effectively as a member of a team
- Demonstrates civic and social commitment

Mathematical Principles:

- Works effectively with mathematical symbols and concepts
- Effectively uses mathematical skills at work, at home, and in a community

Science and Technology:

- Applies scientific concepts and principles at work, home, and in the community
- Demonstrates an awareness of the impacts of technology on our culture and environment
- Uses technology effectively and appropriately
- Adapts to changing technology

Self-Determination:

- Recognizes one's own worth and obligations to self and others
- Recognizes one's self in relation to the world community and future generations
- Recognizes the value of a positive lifestyle, lifelong learning habits, and a work ethic

Revision of: General Education Task Force
Wisconsin Technical College System
November 1989

Revised: 2009