

Alignment Between the University General Education Policy and Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Goals and Objectives

A.4. Critical Thinking	
<p>Courses: Communications 180 (4 units) Honors 103 (4 units) Mathematics 180 (4 units) Philosophy 105 (4 units) Philosophy 200 (4 units) Psychology 105 (4 units) Sociology 180 (4 units)</p>	
GE Policy	Outcomes Assessment Learning Goals
<p>Courses meeting this requirement should teach students how to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identify, analyze, evaluate and present oral and written arguments; b. Distinguish fact from judgment, belief from knowledge; c. Identify and understand common fallacies (such as, but not limited to, straw man arguments, false dilemma, and appeal to authority); d. Recognize common techniques of persuasion and propaganda; e. Understand how cause is determined, including the limitations of correlational evidence; f. Apply skills of critical thinking to everyday life as well as to course related assignments. 	<p>Upon Completion of this requirement students will be able to:</p> <p>Goal 1: Recognize multiple discourse strategies. Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recognize argumentative discourse 2. Identify whether an argument appeals to reasoning or emotion. 3. Distinguish arguments from counterfeit modes of persuasion and propaganda. <p>Goal 2: Identify explicit and implicit components of arguments. Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify explicitly stated premises and assumptions in an argument 2. Identify unstated implications in an argument <p>Goal 3: Distinguish different kinds of arguments. Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recognize inductive arguments. 2. Recognize deductive arguments. <p>Goal 4: Evaluate the quality of reasoning.</p>

Objectives:

1. Choose the appropriate criteria for evaluating arguments.
2. Use appropriate methods to identify valid argumentation (e.g., direct application of definitions, formal methods, informal argument forms).
3. Use appropriate methods to identify invalid reasoning (e.g., counterexamples, informal and/or formal fallacies).
4. Determine validity of arguments and be able to distinguish when evidence provides strong support for a conclusion and when it does not.

Goal 5: Evaluate the soundness of reasoning.

Objectives:

1. Identify good sources of information.
2. Distinguish fact from judgment, belief from knowledge.
3. Apply evaluations of sources to the evaluation of soundness.

Goal 6: Construct valid and sound written and oral arguments.

Objectives:

1. Develop a clear thesis statement of appropriate scope.
2. Provide reasons from a variety of sources that support the thesis.
3. Organize the materials so that they adequately support the thesis.