

Suggested Areas for Intended Learning Outcomes for General Education

11/5/18

The next step on our GE syllabus is the discussion of desired learning outcomes at the November 8 Faculty Meeting. Below, you will find a draft created by the GE Task Force for your consideration. Our aim is to engage the faculty in productive and lively discussion. Tell us what excites you about this draft and what you think could make it stronger and more inspiring. Please keep in mind that the ILOs are statements about the outcomes that we want students to achieve through the new general education curriculum. The set of GE ILOs does not specify how students will encounter these areas of learning and acquire the knowledge and skills that we believe are essential.

The task force will gather feedback (a summary will be posted on the [GE Task Force website](#)) and revise the draft intended learning outcomes for a faculty vote on December 6. A shared understanding of what our students should learn through a St. Olaf education, informed by the guiding principles the faculty approved on October 4, will enable the ad hoc groups to begin proposing what the new St. Olaf requirements should look like.

Suggested Areas for Intended Learning Outcomes for General Education:

Our general education curriculum includes a progression of knowledge, skill development, and experiences. Through the general education curriculum, students will engage with three open, enduring questions:

Q1. How can I understand the world?

Breadth that complements depth in a major:

- Students will demonstrate breadth of knowledge about the world through the study of human behavior, history, culture, the arts, and the natural world, and how these areas intersect.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to use multiple perspectives and methods to pursue knowledge and understand the world.
- Students will demonstrate their knowledge about how cultural identity, power, privilege, and inequality shape their own experiences and the experiences of others.

Q2. What intellectual and practical skills do I need to live meaningfully in community?

Skills that are practiced extensively, across the curriculum:

- Students will demonstrate competence in using a variety of quantitative, qualitative, and applied methods to ask questions and analyze and interpret information.
- Students will demonstrate competence in critical, creative, and analytical thinking to investigate, critique, and construct arguments.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to understand and communicate effectively in at least two languages, orally, digitally, and in writing.

Q3. How can I live responsibly and prepare for future challenges in a dynamic, global society?

Experienced in the classroom and through active engagement with diverse communities and real-world challenges:

- Students will demonstrate the ability to work together creatively to tackle real-world problems.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to make informed choices, based on learning about ethical considerations and religious beliefs across multiple cultural and community contexts.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze ethical issues from a variety of perspectives that interrogate norms of justice and well-being and guide moral reasoning.