

Process of Institutional Effectiveness Model : GER & Freshman Seminar Purposes and Learning Expectations

GER 1 - MATHEMATICS AND QUANTITATIVE REASONING

The purpose of GER1 is to expose students to analytical techniques and computational tools for addressing real world problems.

Expectations for Student Learning:

Students will:

1. carry out numerical calculations by hand or by using calculators or computers.
2. understand why approaches and calculations used in the course work.
3. apply mathematics to study real-world problems.

GER 2 - THE NATURAL SCIENCES

The purpose of GER 2 is to introduce students to enduring principles in the physical and biological sciences and to foster an appreciation of the broader contexts of those principles.

Expectations for Student Learning:

Students will:

1. recognize and understand guiding principles, concepts, and a body of knowledge associated with a scientific discipline
2. recognize and understand the process of scientific investigation, and its limitations.
3. appreciate the broader context of a particular scientific discipline through a basic understanding of at least three of the following:
 - a. the character of natural laws;
 - b. the role of mathematics in science;
 - c. the centrality of cause and effect reasoning to the scientific world view;
 - d. the fundamental importance of change and evolution;
 - e. the characteristic scales and proportions of natural phenomenon;
 - f. the historical development of science and its cultural and intellectual context

GER 2 laboratories:

1. Through hands-on activities, students will gain experiential knowledge associated with a scientific discipline. Students will also gain experience in data collection and analysis.

GER 3 - THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

The purpose of GER 3 is to introduce students to the systematic observation and analysis of human behavior and interaction.

Expectations for Student Learning:

Students will:

1. understand basic concepts, key theories, and methods used by social scientists.
2. describe important findings of social science research.
3. where appropriate, explain implications of social science findings for public policy

GER 4 - WORLD CULTURES AND HISTORY

The purpose of GER 4 is to introduce students to major ideas, institutions, and historical events in European and non-European traditions that have shaped human societies and cultures.

Expectations for Student Learning:

Students will understand:

1. important cultural and historical topics, issues, or themes in more than one period or in one critical period or in a movement or movements
2. institutions, movements, or cultural practices in historical context
3. critical historical and cultural events, institutions, ideas, or literary/artistic achievements

GER 5 – LITERATURE AND HISTORY OF THE ARTS

The purpose of GER 5 is to introduce students to important literary or artistic achievements, and how those achievements should be understood in their cultural contexts

Expectations for Student Learning:

Students will:

1. become conversant with at least two major forms, genres, eras, cultures, or movements; or with at least two methods of analysis of art or literature
2. become familiar with the vocabulary of the discipline and be able to apply the appropriate methodologies for critical analysis.

GER 6 - CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS

The purpose of GER 6 is to help students understand the process of artistic communication through experience-based learning.

Expectations for Student Learning:

Students will develop and apply their artistic skills through a creative or performing art (music, art, creative-writing, dance, theatre, or debate/forensics)

GER 7 - PHILOSOPHICAL, RELIGIOUS, AND SOCIAL THOUGHT

The purpose of GER 7 is to introduce students to important and influential approaches to philosophical, religious, or social thought and to cultivate reasoned analysis and judgment.

Expectations for Student Learning:

Students will:

1. address some fundamental questions about what is good, worthwhile, valuable, desirable, holy, sacred, right, just, true, beautiful and the like in philosophical, religious or social thought
2. identify and justify philosophical, religious or social norms and values.
3. engage in active critical analysis of evaluative or ethical theories, concepts, and methods of reasoning and deliberation in philosophical, religious or social thought.

FRESHMAN SEMINARS

The purpose of the freshman seminar program is to help students develop their capacity for critical thinking, independent learning, and effective communication.

Expectations for Student Learning:

Students will:

1. engage in critical thinking on topics pertinent to the subject matter of the course;
2. work independently to understand texts and form judgments on topics pertinent to the subject matter of the course;
3. communicate effectively on topics pertinent to the subject matter of the course.