

## **Philosophy of General Education**

I. An educated person must have a critical appreciation of society and of self. This includes some understanding and experience in thinking about moral and ethical problems which enable an educated person to make discriminating moral choices-personal/inter-personal skills.

1. To understand how a human being behaves individually and how one is linked to one's social and natural environment-know thyself.
2. To understand the complexities and uncertainties of personal and social environments, to understand how individuals may be changed and controlled by their environments, and to develop skills to change and control environments-personal change and growth.
3. To apply knowledge gained in the educational process and use that knowledge in everyday living-apply knowledge to the real world.
4. To develop skills for designing and evaluating a personal mental and physical health program-mental and physical wellness.
5. To recognize the importance of leisure and develop the use of leisure for positive life changes-importance of leisure.
6. To develop the ability to make responsible decisions based upon understanding and experience in discussing moral and ethical problems in society-values and ethics.
7. To develop work habits and ethics necessary to function effectively in the workplace-work-related skills.

II. An educated person must be able to think, speak, and write effectively-communication/thinking skills.

1. To develop a working knowledge of the English language to communicate effectively by writing and speaking clearly and concisely-present ideas (oral/written.)
2. To develop the skills necessary to gather, integrate, synthesize, and analyze written and oral information in a critical manner-rational/critical/higher-order thinking.
3. To use information objectively for solving problems and arriving at alternative solutions-problem-solving skills.
4. To develop the critical listening and reading skills needed to interpret the messages of speakers and authors-reading/listening critically.
5. To nurture creative thinking and intellectual curiosity through opportunities and incentives and to encourage attempts at different, divergent solutions to open-ended questions, problems, and situations-creativity/intellectual curiosity.
6. To conceptualize links between events, entities, and ideas and the large context in which they occur-integrate ideas of the world.

III. An educated person must have an understanding of other cultures to enable one to conduct life with reference to the wider world within which one lives-global/multi-cultural experiences.

1. To gain knowledge of Western and non-Western cultures and other times in order to better understand the world and its people-the world/Eastern/Western civilizations.
2. To recognize that world events are interdependently linked, are affected by the social environment, and are influenced by institutions created within an interactive society, and to understand that impact on one event has ramifications for other events and for the whole-understand world events from differing disciplines.
3. To nurture a philosophy that asserts the dignity of humanity while understanding the value of world diversity in race, ethnicity, and culture-global culturalism.
4. To encourage development of a working knowledge of a second language-communication and understanding.

IV. An educated person must have an appreciation for and an informed acquaintance with the arts and humanities. Experiencing the aesthetics of literature, the arts, and history will provide enrichment in a variety of diverse fields and life experiences-aesthetic/ intellectual experiences.

1. To develop a knowledge of and appreciation for human accomplishments in art, music, literature, and history-appreciation for the arts and humanities.
2. To understand the connectedness and inter-dependency between events, entities, and ideas and the large context in which they exist-inter-disciplinary understanding.
3. To understand literary concepts presented through literary works in the humanities, history, and English-understanding literary concepts.
4. To develop a consciousness of history and an understanding of the common heritage of Western civilization-understand social, economic political structures.
5. To foster an understanding of the benefits and responsibilities of living in a democratic society-citizenship/leadership.

V. An educated person must have an informed acquaintance with and an appreciation for science and mathematics and their contributions to society-mathematics/sciences applications.

1. To develop a conceptual understanding of mathematics and a practical knowledge of mathematical application-numerical.
2. To understand and appreciate the natural physical environment of the planet Earth, thus promoting an ethic of stewardship and ecology-environment.
3. To gain knowledge of the properties of the universe for understanding and application-physical.
4. To foster an attitude of intellectual inquiry and methodology which will expand one's view of the universe and the place of humanity within it-scientific method/inquiry.
5. To provide a general knowledge of the human body and its systems-biological.

VI. An educated person must be literate in current and future technologies-technology/ computers/information applications.

1. To explore the nature, role, and impact of technology on the environment and society-technology literacy.
2. To develop a working knowledge of computers and computer programs and their functions-computer literacy.
3. To apply current technologies to access and utilization of information-application of technology.
4. To develop the skills necessary to locate and gather information from both print and non-print resources-library/information literacy.

VII. An educated person must have a continued commitment to life-long learning-life-long learning experiences/skills.

1. To develop a pattern of intellectual curiosity and inquiry which promotes life-long learning-value of life-long learning.
2. To nurture and promote the ability to adapt to an ever-changing society-adapt to the future.
3. To develop an interest in serving the community-community service.