

**SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
SCP-3637**

- SUBJECT:** General Education Philosophy and Goals
- REFERENCE:** Title 135, Procedural Rule, West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education, Series 11, *Degree Designation, General Education Requirements, New Program Approval, and Discontinuance of Existing Programs*; Title 135, Procedural Rule, West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education, Series 17, *Transferability of Credits and Grades at West Virginia Public Colleges and Universities*; West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission and West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education *Core Coursework Transfer Agreement*
- ORIGINATION:** December 19, 1997
- EFFECTIVE:** May 16, 2019
- REVIEWED:** ~~October 2018~~ [September 8, 2023](#)

### **SECTION 1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The faculty of Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College dedicate themselves to preparing Southern's graduates for life and work in the twenty-first century. The general education philosophy and goals describe Southern's commitment to providing each graduate with the skills and knowledge necessary for professional and personal success.

### **SECTION 2. SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY**

- 2.1 This policy is applicable to all students enrolled at Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College and the faculty who are responsible for instruction.

### **SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS**

- 3.1 The purpose of general education at Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College is to produce generally educated students who contribute to their communities and country. A generally educated student is a life-long learner with a common academic canon of knowledge, concepts and attitudes.
- 3.2 The general education goals are defined as follows:
- 3.2.1 **Written Communication:** Students will demonstrate effective written communication (W) by expressing thoughts, ideas, and information clearly and effectively through written mediums that exhibit the following qualities:
- W1 Purpose is clearly stated.
  - W2 Organization is structured and has a clear beginning, middle, and end.
  - W3 Ideas are thoroughly developed and support the thesis, purpose, or controlling idea.
  - W4 Grammar and mechanics are correct and do not interfere with readability.
  - W5 Language and style are appropriate for the intended audience and subject matter.

3.2.2 **Verbal Communication:** Students will demonstrate effective verbal communication (V) by delivering presentations or engaging in dialogue-centered specific content that illustrates the following features:

- V1 Purpose is clearly stated.
- V2 Organization has a clear beginning, middle, and end.
- V3 Ideas and conclusions are thoroughly developed and support the purpose or objective.
- V4 Audience is actively engaged.
- V5 Delivery is clear and effective.

3.2.3 **Quantitative Literacy:** Students will demonstrate quantitative literacy (Q) by using quantitative methods to calculate solutions to diverse problems and career-specific situations and interpreting and applying the results, effectively exhibiting the following:

- Q1 Performing mathematically correct calculations.
- Q2 Interpreting the results and forming data-supported conclusions.
- Q3 Applying the results to specific situations.

3.2.4 **Critical Thinking:** Students will demonstrate critical thinking (CT) by exploring issues/objects/works through the collection and analysis of evidence that results in informed conclusions, effectively demonstrating the following:

- CT1 Identifying the issue.
- CT2 Gathering credible information.
- CT3 Analyzing relevant information.
- CT4 Formulating a conclusion.

3.2.5 **Intercultural Knowledge and Competence:** Students will demonstrate intercultural knowledge and competence (IC) by recognizing diversity, as well as interacting and cooperating in a diverse setting, including, but not limited to, differences in race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, social class, physical ability, or attributes, religious or ethical values system, national origin, or political belief, effectively demonstrating the following:

- IC1 Recognizing cultural diversity.
- IC2 Communicating in a diverse setting.
- IC3 Collaborating in a diverse context.

## SECTION 4. POLICY

4.1 Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College is committed to providing general education to help students develop the qualities and skills associated with college-educated adults. Southern's general education promotes the development of independent, critical, and conceptual thinking skills and those skills necessary for effective communication. Southern's general education provides students with an integrated view of knowledge and prepares them for their role as productive and responsible members of society.

## SECTION 5. BACKGROUND OR EXCLUSIONS

5.1 None.

## SECTION 6. GENERAL PROVISIONS

6.1 Students who have completed the general education requirements of an associate degree will have improved in the following:

- 6.1.1 Written Communication
- 6.1.2 Verbal Communication

- 6.1.3 Quantitative Literacy
- 6.1.4 Critical Thinking
- 6.1.5 Intercultural Knowledge and Competence

**SECTION 7. RESPONSIBILITIES**

7.1 General education is the responsibility of all who work and learn at Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College. Components of general education are embedded in all programs. Southern will maintain general education coursework requirements within each program as specified in the state policy.

**SECTION 8. CANCELLATION**

8.1 None.

**SECTION 9. REVIEW STATEMENT**

9.1 This policy shall be reviewed on a regular basis with a time frame for review to be determined by the President or the President’s designee. Upon such review, the President or President’s designee may recommend to the Board that the policy be amended or repealed.

**SECTION 10. SIGNATURES**

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**Board of Governors Chair**                      **Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**President**    **Date**

**Attachments:**            None

**Distribution:**            Board of Governors (12 members)  
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**Revision Notes:**        November 2012 - Revisions reflect no substantial changes in procedure or documentation requirements. The policy was reformatted into the current policy template.

October 2018 - Revisions reflect changes in general education philosophy and goals.

[September 2023 – Revisions reflect changes in general education philosophy and goals.](#)