

## General Education Goals and Operational Definitions

Purpose Statement: The general education requirements of Illinois Central College prepare our graduates to become productive members of society and life-long learners.

**All associate degree graduates will be able to:**

### **1. Read and think critically**

*Critical readers systematically engage written and visual materials rather than passively accept an author's logic grounds, and conclusions. Critical readers contextualize written and visual materials in order to analyze and evaluate information, interpretation, and presentation. Critical thinkers systematically and actively review and examine the process and products of reasoning. Critical thinkers seek to minimize bias by questioning assumptions, including their own, and by analyzing, evaluating, and synthesizing evidence drawn from multiple sources.*

### **2. Communicate effectively**

*Effective communicators have the ability to successfully transfer information, concepts, or emotions to an audience through written, oral, or nonverbal communication skills. To be effective, the communicator must assess the context of the communication, the intended recipient, and any variables affecting the process.*

### **3. Demonstrate mathematical and scientific reasoning**

*Mathematical and scientific reasoning rely on quantitative literacy and critical thinking skills over a range of activities that vary significantly across disciplines. **Mathematical reasoning** uses logic, interprets data, solves problems, draws conclusions and makes connections with numerical data in any form (such as equations, graphs, tables or words.) **Scientific reasoning** evaluates the validity of statements and conclusions on the basis of the authority of source, appropriateness of method, and the evidence-whether observation or experimentation.*

### **4. Demonstrate awareness of the diversity of cultures, ethics, values, or aesthetics**

*Awareness of diversity of cultures requires recognition of cultures, sub-cultures, and co-cultures through study and comparison of the ways in which humans have represented their experiences and expressed themselves throughout history and across the globe. Awareness of ethics and values involves reasoning about right and wrong human conduct. It requires students to assess their own values and the social context of problems, to recognize issues in a variety of settings, to think about how different perspectives might be applied to dilemmas, and to consider the ramifications of alternative actions. Awareness of diversity of aesthetics involves recognition of differing sensibilities. It requires students to experience and reflect upon primary texts and works of art.*

## **5. Demonstrate the ability to be creative and innovative in solving problems**

*Creative problem solving is the process of identifying, implementing, and evaluating a strategy to answer an open-ended question, solve problems with multiple possible solutions, or achieve a desired goal.*

## **6. Work independently and collaboratively**

*A student working independently demonstrates responsibility from the beginning to the end of a project. Responsibility includes initiative, organizing, and adapting in order to reach project completion. A student contributes to a collaborative work/team/project as an individual. Student behaviors that contribute to the success of the work/team/project include the following: effort, manner of interacting, and quality and quantity of contributions to discussions and to the final product.*

## **7. Demonstrate computer literacy and information literacy**

*Computer literate students demonstrate proficiency in general computer operation and use of word processing, spreadsheet, and presentation software. They show an understanding of the different methods of accessing the internet, advance searching (including evaluation of the results). They use proper protocols when using email and social media to communicate with both individual and groups. They have knowledge of the proper methods for securing and backing up data.*

*Students who demonstrate information literacy recognize when information is needed, determine the extent of information needed, access the information effectively and efficiently, evaluate the information and its sources critically, incorporate the information into their knowledge base, and then use that information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose. In addition, they understand ethical, legal, social, and economic issues surrounding the access and use of information.\**

\*Information Literacy definition taken from "Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education", Association of College and Research Libraries.