

Los Medanos College
General Education Philosophy
(Revised Fall 2013)

General education is designed to enhance the lives of students in the broadest sense. Generally educated people have well-developed reading, writing, speaking and critical thinking skills, and will mobilize these abilities in all areas of their lives, for the rest of their lives. They can ask thoughtful questions, grapple with difficult texts and concepts, consider competing perspectives, challenge arguments and question conventional ideas, absorb new information, admit their own limitations, and demonstrate curiosity and a love of learning.

The ends of general education are more than academic; they are civic, moral, and personal. Civic, because citizens in a democracy need to think, be informed, and work with others in public projects. Moral, because we are bound to uphold rights, to respect diversity, and to oppose the mistreatment of humanity and the natural world. And personal, to enhance self-awareness and intellectual discipline. As generally educated people, we live better in every way.

A GE course is rigorous and challenging, but also responsive to students and relevant to real-world issues. A GE course honors the diversity of its students' opinions and life experiences. A GE course is active, dynamic, probing, far-reaching, and open to unexpected lines of inquiry. A GE course will engage and benefit any student, not only those with a professional or personal interest in the subject.