

## **Statement of Purpose (rev. March 23, 2018)**

The Sonoma State General Education (GE) Program provides students an intentional, coherent, inclusive undergraduate experience across multiple disciplinary perspectives, fostering broad transferable skills and integrated, engaged learning that position students to create and participate meaningfully and ethically in our interconnected and interdependent world.

### **Goals:**

1. Coherent, intentional undergraduate experience
  - Creates an intentional program spanning the baccalaureate
  - Encourages students to be intentional about college, career, and lifelong learning
  - Prioritizes student development in an inclusive environment
  
2. Disciplinary perspectives
  - Introduces students to multiple disciplinary ways of knowing,
    - Supporting students in exploring, choosing, and affirming majors and areas of focus
    - Developing breadth of knowledge
  - Affords students the opportunity to practice knowledge-making
  - Expects understanding and appreciation of human diversity and multicultural perspectives
  
3. Broad transferable skills
  - Teaches academic skills, including
    - Written communication
    - Oral communication
    - Critical thinking and questioning
    - Quantitative reasoning
    - Information literacy
    - Cultural competency
  - Teaches life skills, including
    - Practicing collaboration
    - Engaging in problem-solving
    - Reading critically and digesting materials
    - Planning, organizing, and carrying through complex projects in a timely fashion
    - Cultivating an understanding and appreciation of social power and difference
  - Cultivates lifelong learning dispositions, including
    - Creativity
    - Curiosity
    - Flexibility
    - Reflection

- Challenge-seeking
- Persistence
- Inclusiveness

#### 4. Integrated learning

- Builds bridges between disciplines and schools
  - Synthesizing across general and specialized studies
  - Bringing multiple disciplinary perspectives to the students' programs of study
- Teaches students to apply knowledge, skills, and multiple perspectives to new situations and problem-solving.
- Encourages students to embrace ambiguity and appreciate/value difference

#### 5. Engaged and real-world learning

- Provides opportunities and encourages students to engage in hands-on learning and applications in and beyond the classroom.
- Fosters social responsibility of individuals within diverse communities.