Mission and Values

General Education integrates approaches and insights of diverse disciplines in order to encourage inquiry about and engagement with the social and natural worlds we inhabit. With strong foundations in critical thinking, written and oral communication, and the arts and sciences, students evaluate, synthesize and act on knowledge from varied historical, cultural, scientific and political perspectives. In combination with the major field of study, GE completes the breadth of university education necessary for success as a lifelong learner and civicly-engaged individual in the twenty-first century. The General Education program incorporates and seeks to foster values of:

**Active Inquiry**—a spirit of curiosity to ask questions, seek answers, and pursue investigations with intellectual rigor, both inside and outside traditional instructional settings.

**Social Responsibility**—an active engagement within our various communities—locally, regionally, nationally, and globally—to encourage positive change.

**Sustainability**—an understanding of the environmental dynamics associated with human activities and of the necessity for balancing human demands with the Earth’s ability to sustain biological and cultural diversity.

**Diversity**—an understanding and appreciation of different intellectual viewpoints as well as the unique perspectives of others based on varied experiences, identities and social attributes.

**Creativity**—the generation of new ideas and original expressions, accompanied by a willingness to take intellectual risks and consider novel approaches.

**Global Engagement**—the cultural, linguistic, and analytic skills necessary to engage with diverse cultures, people, and the global marketplace, and to contribute as responsible global citizens.