

General Education Outcomes for Natural Sciences

Goal: Issues in today's world require scientific information and a scientific approach to informed decision making. Therefore, the goal of the Natural Science requirement is to guide students toward becoming scientifically literate. This scientific understanding gained in these courses enhances students' ability to define and solve problems, reason with an open mind, think critically and creatively, suspend judgment, and make decisions that may have local or global significance.

Learning Outcomes
Students will demonstrate the ability to.....
1. Conduct an experiment, collect and analyze data, and interpret results in a laboratory setting.
2. Analyze, evaluate and test a scientific hypothesis.
3. Use basic scientific language and processes, and be able to distinguish between scientific and non-scientific explanations.
4. Identify unifying principles and repeatable patterns in nature, the values of natural diversity, and apply them to problems or issues of a scientific nature.
5. Analyze and discuss the impact of scientific discovery on human thought and behavior.

For the purposes of Natural Science, courses will come from areas such as astronomy, biology, chemistry, physics, geology, and interdisciplinary studies in science. A significant laboratory experience is required. Courses that are narrowly focused and those introductory or foundational science courses designed primarily as prerequisites or foundational experiences leading to a major in professional science areas are not eligible for inclusion.

All learning outcomes must be satisfied by any course(s) in this category.