Southern OREGON UNIVERSITY

The Transforming General Education Task Force presents:

CORE CAPACITIES FOR PURPOSEFUL LIVING

The Core Capacities Model is a General Education program focused on six **Core Capacities for Purposeful Living**:

1. **Purpose Integration**
2. **Communication**
3. **Numerical Literacy**
4. **Inquiry and Analysis**
5. **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion**
6. **Creativity and Innovation**

A Brief Overview of Our Core Capacities

1. Purpose Integration

What: The capacity for Purpose Integration supports students' ability to engage in intentional and guided reflection to identify and assess their personal, intellectual, and professional goals, and to develop a flexible plan that moves them toward those goals.

Why: Purposeful Integration enables students to further explore personal and professional options, identify and pursue new opportunities, leverage their skills to make progress toward their aspirations, and continuously learn and improve.

2. Communication

What: The capacity for Communication equips students to create, develop, and express messages with an audience in mind (e.g., using writing, speaking, listening, dialogue, sound, visual images, media, embodied expression, and networked digital tools) and receive and analyze messages developed by others.

Why: A student's ability to communicate enables them to carefully craft messages tailored to multiple audiences, express their messages in different forms, and evaluate the messages they receive from other people. Making meaning together with other people through the mutual exchange of communication messages is a crucial life skill.

3. Numerical Literacy

What: The capacity for Numerical Literacy enables students to appropriately extract, interpret, evaluate, construct, communicate, and use quantitative information (e.g., numerical data, equations, graphs, diagrams, tables) and methods to solve problems, evaluate claims, and support decisions in students' everyday professional, civic, and personal lives.

Why: To understand trends and solve problems, a student's ability to reason with numbers and mathematical concepts will enable them to formulate, support, and evaluate arguments and concepts with data.

4. Inquiry & Analysis

(to be applied in three broad "disciplinary lenses" roughly equivalent to the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Sciences)

What: The capacity for Inquiry & Analysis enables students to pose meaningful questions; gather, analyze, and evaluate relevant information; and articulate how that information contributes to an understanding of the world and shapes decisions, actions, and conclusions.

Why: Inquiry and analysis are transdisciplinary skills, reflecting the recognition that success in all disciplines requires habits of critical thinking that share common attributes. Further, research suggests that successful critical thinkers from all disciplines increasingly need to be able to apply critical thinking skills and habits of mind in the various and changing situations encountered in all walks of life.

5. Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

What: The capacity for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion prepares students to engage in an intentional and continuous process of learning culturally affirming ways of being, interacting, and behaving that result in equitable living outcomes in both global and local communities. EDI encourages the development of empathy, respect, and understanding around differences and the tools to help bridge those differences.

Why: EDI enables students to work collaboratively, effectively, equitably, and respectfully with diverse groups. By developing their global and intercultural fluency,

students may better understand systemic oppressions and advocate for a more equitable world.

6. Creativity & Innovation

What: The capacity for Creativity & Innovation equips students to produce meaning and value for an audience, develop and apply imaginative solutions to complex problems, and incorporate feedback in an ongoing and iterative process of improvement.

Why: A capacity to effectively create and innovate builds resilience in the face of persistent disruption by helping students develop tools to reframe obstacles as opportunities. Creative thinking incorporates multiple perspectives to solve durable challenges that resist easy answers while continuously improving upon those solutions in response to new information.