



**Exploration Strands (Lower Division) 36 credits,  
Earned with 3 courses in each of the following categories**

**Goal E: Humanities**

**Recognize human accomplishments in the arts and humanities and understand their role in clarifying individual and social values. *SOU defines study in the arts and humanities as focusing on intellectual and cultural expression approached through historical, cultural, and aesthetic investigations and interpretations.***

**1. Understand basic formal elements, principles, and composition structures in written, oral, visual, or performed texts, works, and/or artifacts.**

*Proficiencies: Students will be able to –*

1. Describe how technical, organizational, and aesthetic elements in human expression reflect ideas and emotions.
2. Classify and compare intellectual and artistic endeavors according to recognized criteria and genres.
3. Understand how differences in form affect meaning.

**2. Understand how cultural and historical factors impact the creation of written, oral, visual, or performed texts, works, and/or artifacts.**

*Proficiencies: Students will be able to –*

1. Compare works from different time periods and cultures.
2. Demonstrate how cultural and historical forces influence a creative process.
3. Analyze individuals' creative processes within a specific art and/or discipline.

**3. Understand how the reception of texts, works, and/or artifacts influences individuals, cultures, and societies.**

*Proficiencies: Students will be able to –*

1. Explain how individuals respond differently to intellectual and artistic endeavors.
2. Recognize and explain how intellectual and artistic endeavors influence cultural and societal assumptions and values.
3. Recognize and explain how intellectual and artistic endeavors change culture and society.

**Goal F: Social Science**

**Understand fundamental concepts of social science and the inter-connections among social institutions, values, individuals, and groups. *Social Sciences are disciplines that examine how individuals, groups, institutions, and societies behave and interact with one another and their environments. They provide students with the tools to analyze social, political, or economic institutions (such as families, communities, or governments), and to examine society issues and problems at individual, cultural, national, or global levels.***

**1. Understand connections between individuals and social, economic, and/or political institutions.**

*Proficiencies: Students will be able to –*

1. Identify impact of social, economic, and/or political institutions on individuals.
2. Analyze social, economic, and/or political institutions, using discipline-based contexts or approaches.

**2. Understand the interactions of and the relationships between natural and social environments and resources.**

*Proficiencies: Students will be able to –*

1. Analyze reciprocal influences among political, economic, and/or social developments.
2. Identify and evaluate the impact of one's own actions in a societal context.

**3. Apply social science perspectives to past and contemporary issues.**

*Proficiencies: Students will be able to –*

1. Analyze and evaluate past episodes using discipline-based methodologies.
2. Analyze and evaluate contemporary issues and problems from social, economic, and/or political perspectives.

**Goal G: Sciences – Physical, Biological, and Computer**

**Understand the fundamental concepts, methods, and applications of the sciences and their impacts on human experience. *SOU defines the sciences as those disciplines that focus on a systemized body of knowledge derived through objective methodologies involving repeatable experimentation, observation, verification, and study. A lab class will include a practical laboratory component that accompanies lecture and course material. We define a lab as a controlled setting where scientific experiments are performed.***

**1. Understand major concepts, principles, and theories of the sciences.**

*Proficiencies: Students will be able to –*

1. Apply critical thinking, quantitative reasoning, and/or problem-solving skills to evaluate scientific evidence, theories, and hypotheses.
2. Use language and concepts of a science discipline.
3. Understand the broad historical outline of the development of the scientific worldview and important theories.

**2. Understand science as a means of learning about and understanding the natural world.**

*Proficiencies: Students will be able to generate and test scientific hypotheses by –*

1. Designing and carrying out experiments and systematic observational studies. In some cases this may include a laboratory or field setting.
2. Using appropriate tools to analyze results.
3. Communicating results orally and in writing according to established standards of scientific communication, including appropriate use of tables, figures, and graphs.

**3. Apply scientific knowledge and methods to societal issues.**

*Proficiencies: Students will be able to –*

1. Inform decision-making on social, political, and/or economic issues.
2. Explain interrelationships between society and the sciences.
3. Investigate impacts of technologies on segments of society and investigate plausible solutions to adverse impacts.