

General Education Goals and Outcomes

The following are the SDBOR General Education Goals and their associated learning outcomes. Goals 1 & 5 are assessed year 1. Goals in 3 and 5 are assessed in year 2, and goals 2 & 4 are assessed in year 3.

Goal 1:

Students will write effectively and responsibly and will understand and interpret the written expression of others.

1. Student Learning Outcomes: As a result of taking courses meeting this goal, students will:
 - a. Write using standard American English, including correct punctuation, grammar, and sentence structure,
 - b. Write logically,
 - c. Write persuasively, with a variety of rhetorical strategies (e.g., expository, argumentative, descriptive), and
 - d. Incorporate formal research and documentation into their writing, including research obtained through modern, technology-based research tools.

Goal 2:

Students will communicate effectively and responsibly through listening and speaking.

1. Student Learning Outcomes: As a result of taking courses meeting this goal, students will:
 - a. Students will demonstrate the ability to speak thoughtfully, clearly, and effectively in a variety of contexts.
 - b. Students will demonstrate active listening skills in a variety of contexts.

Goal 3:

Students will understand the organization, potential, and diversity of the human community through study of the social sciences.

1. Student Learning Outcomes: As a result of taking courses meeting this goal, students will:
 - a. Identify and explain basic concepts, terminology, and theories, and systems of inquiry of the selected social science disciplines.
 - b. Apply selected social science concepts and theories to contemporary or historical issues from different behavioral, cultural, institutional, temporal, or spatial contexts.
 - c. Analyze the extent and impact of diversity among individuals, cultures, or societies in contemporary or historical contexts using social science methods and concepts.

Goal 4:

Students will understand the diversity and complexity of the human experience through study of the arts and humanities.

1. As a result of taking courses meeting this goal, students will:
 - a. Demonstrate knowledge of the diversity of values, beliefs, practices or ideas embodied in the human experience, and
 - b. Demonstrate basic understanding of concepts of the selected discipline within the arts and humanities

And at least one of the following:

- c. Demonstrate ability to express creative, aesthetic, formal or stylistic elements of the disciplines
- d. Demonstrate foundational competency in reading, writing, and speaking a non-English language.
- e. Identify and explain cultural contributions from the perspective of the selected disciplines within the arts and humanities.

Goal 5:

Students will understand and apply fundamental mathematical processes and reasoning.

1. Student Learning Outcomes: As a result of taking courses meeting this goal, students will:
 - a. Use mathematical symbols and mathematical structure to model and solve real world problems,
 - b. Demonstrate appropriate communication skills related to mathematical terms and concepts

Goal 6:

Students will understand the fundamental principles of the natural sciences and apply scientific methods of inquiry to investigate the natural world.

1. Student Learning Outcomes: As a result of taking courses meeting this goal, students will:
 - a. Explain the nature of science including how scientific explanation are formulated, tested, and modified or validated.
 - b. Distinguish between scientific and non-scientific evidence and explanations, and use scientific evidence to construct arguments related to contemporary issues.
 - c. Apply basic observational, quantitative, or technological methods to gather and analyze data and generate evidence-based conclusions in a laboratory setting.
 - d. Understand and apply foundational knowledge and discipline-specific concepts to address issues, solve problems, or predict natural phenomena.