SSU GE Program Statement of Purpose

The Sonoma State General Education (GE) Program provides students an intentional, coherent, inclusive undergraduate experience across multiple disciplinary perspectives, fostering broad transferable skills and integrated, engaged learning that position students to create and participate meaningfully and ethically in our interconnected and interdependent world. The GE program consists of a set of learning outcomes that are achieved through coursework in two areas: 1) GE content area distribution courses and 2) Seawolf studies, or overlay, courses.

Goals:

1. Coherent, intentional undergraduate experience
   - Creates an intentional program spanning the baccalaureate
   - Encourages students to be intentional about college, career, and lifelong learning
   - Prioritizes student development in an inclusive environment

2. Disciplinary perspectives
   - Introduces students to multiple disciplinary ways of knowing,
     - Supporting students in exploring, choosing, and affirming majors and areas of focus
     - Developing breadth of knowledge
   - Affords students the opportunity to practice knowledge-making
   - Expects understanding and appreciation of human diversity and multicultural perspectives

3. Broad transferable skills
   - Teaches academic skills, including
     - Written communication
     - Oral communication
     - Critical thinking and questioning
     - Quantitative reasoning
     - Information literacy
     - Cultural competency
   - Teaches life skills, including
     - Practicing collaboration
     - Engaging in problem-solving
     - Reading critically and digesting materials
     - Planning, organizing, and carrying through complex projects in a timely fashion
     - Cultivating an understanding and appreciation of social power and difference
   - Cultivates lifelong learning dispositions, including
     - Creativity
     - Curiosity
     - Flexibility
     - Reflection

- Challenge-seeking
- Persistence
- Inclusiveness

4. Integrated learning
   - Builds bridges between disciplines and schools
     - Synthesizing across general and specialized studies
     - Bringing multiple disciplinary perspectives to the students' programs of study
   - Teaches students to apply knowledge, skills, and multiple perspectives to new situations and problem-solving.
   - Encourages students to embrace ambiguity and appreciate/value difference

5. Engaged and real-world learning
   - Provides opportunities and encourages students to engage in hands-on learning and applications in and beyond the classroom.
   - Fosters social responsibility of individuals within diverse communities.

General Education Learning Outcomes

- **Critical Reading:** Actively analyze *texts* in a variety of forms, genres, and disciplines.

- **Information Literacy**: Iteratively formulate questions for research by gathering diverse types of information; identifying gaps, correlations, and contradictions; and using sources ethically toward a creative, informed synthesis of ideas.

- **Argument:** Advance cogent and ethical arguments in a variety of genres with rigor and critical inquiry.

- **Communication:** Communicate clearly and eloquently in written, oral, and/or performative forms in a variety of genres and disciplines.

- **Quantitative Reasoning:** Interpret, evaluate, and employ quantitative analysis and arguments.

- **Disciplinary and Interdisciplinary Knowledge:** Identify, interpret, and apply methods, intellectual approaches, and fundamental concepts from disciplines within the social sciences, physical and life sciences, arts, and humanities.

- **Integration**: Synthesize and apply theoretical and practical perspectives from multiple disciplines to develop an understanding of complex issues.

- **Diverse Cultural Competencies:** Attain and apply knowledge of social power and difference in relations between self, other people, and social structures locally and nationally while honoring contributions of people of diverse identities.

- **Civic Responsibility:** Drawing on the past and present, develop knowledge and skills that promote active citizenship, with the capacity to deliberate, act, and lead in a democratic society.

- **Sustainable Development:** Explore past and present relationships among humans, societies, and environments to find new ways to cultivate a more secure and resilient future for all on our planet.

- **Global Awareness:** Develop knowledge of past and present political, economic, and cultural relations operating at international to global scale.

- **Creative Problem Solving:** Apply knowledge, skills, and multiple perspectives in new situations to analyze and formulate solutions to complex problems with confidence and creativity.

- **Creative Expression:** Produce new work through performance, design, construction, art, or creative writing that is characterized by innovation, divergent thinking, and intellectual risk taking.