

**SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
SCP-3637**

- SUBJECT:** General Education Philosophy and Goals
- REFERENCE:** Title 135, Procedural Rule, West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education, Series 11, *Degree Designation, General Education Requirements, New Program Approval, and Discontinuance of Existing Programs*; Title 135, Procedural Rule, West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education, Series 17, *Transferability of Credits and Grades at West Virginia Public Colleges and Universities*; West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission and West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education *Core Coursework Transfer Agreement*
- ORIGINATION:** December 19, 1997
- EFFECTIVE:** May 16, 2019
- REVIEWED:** October 2018

**SECTION 1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The faculty of Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College dedicate themselves to preparing Southern's graduates for life and work in the twenty-first century. The general education philosophy and goals describe Southern's commitment to providing each graduate with the skills and knowledge necessary for professional and personal success.

**SECTION 2. SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY**

- 2.1 This policy is applicable to all students enrolled at Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College and the faculty who are responsible for instruction.

**SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS**

- 3.1 The purpose of general education at Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College is to produce generally educated students who contribute to their communities and country. A generally educated student is a life-long learner with a common academic canon of knowledge, concepts and attitudes.
- 3.2 The general education goals are defined as follows:
- 3.2.1 Critical thinking is the ability to identify and interpret relevant information in order to formulate an opinion or conclusion.
- 3.2.2 Communication is utilizing verbal and written language to discuss and comprehend information, incorporating a variety of technologies, such as texts, data, and images.
- 3.2.3 Quantitative literacy and fluency is the demonstration and communication of computational methods and mathematical reasoning in a variety of formats (using words, tables, graphs, mathematical equations, etc. as appropriate).
- 3.2.4 Intercultural competence is the ability to communicate and behave in appropriate ways with those who are culturally diverse.

**SECTION 4. POLICY**

4.1 Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College is committed to providing general education to help students develop the qualities and skills associated with college-educated adults. Southern’s general education promotes the development of independent, critical, and conceptual thinking skills and those skills necessary for effective communication. Southern’s general education provides students with an integrated view of knowledge and prepares them for their role as productive and responsible members of society.

**SECTION 5. BACKGROUND OR EXCLUSIONS**

5.1 None.

**SECTION 6. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

6.1 Students who have completed the general education requirements of an associate degree will have improved in the following:  
6.1.1 Critical Thinking  
6.1.2 Communication  
6.1.3 Quantitative Literacy and Fluency  
6.1.4 Intercultural Competence

**SECTION 7. RESPONSIBILITIES**

7.1 General education is the responsibility of all who work and learn at Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College. Components of general education are embedded in all programs. Southern will maintain general education coursework requirements within each program as specified in the state policy.

**SECTION 8. CANCELLATION**

8.1 None.

**SECTION 9. REVIEW STATEMENT**

9.1 This policy shall be reviewed on a regular basis with a time frame for review to be determined by the President or the President’s designee. Upon such review, the President or President’s designee may recommend to the Board that the policy be amended or repealed.

**SECTION 10. SIGNATURES**

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**Board of Governors Chair                      Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**President    Date**

**Attachments:**        None

**Distribution:** Board of Governors (12 members)  
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**Revision Notes:** November 2012 - Revisions reflect no substantial changes in procedure or documentation requirements. The policy was reformatted into the current policy template.

October 2018 - Revisions reflect changes in general education philosophy and goals.