



**NORTHERN
PENNSYLVANIA
REGIONAL COLLEGE**

Policy: NPRC-3015: General Education Philosophy and Goals

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Reviewed:

Last Updated:

Subject: General Education Philosophy and Goals

1. PURPOSE

The general education philosophy and goals of Northern Pennsylvania Regional College describe the commitment of the college to providing each graduate with a strong foundation in general education to establish the ability to pursue lifelong learning and professional success.

2. SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY

This policy is applicable to all students enrolled in credit-bearing degree or certificate programs at Northern Pennsylvania Regional College, the faculty who are responsible for instruction, and the academic administrative unit.

3. DEFINITIONS

3.1 The philosophy of general education at Northern Pennsylvania Regional College is to produce graduates who possess a common academic foundation of knowledge, skills, attitudes, and abilities which encourages life-long learning and fosters intellectual curiosity.

3.2 The general education goals of Northern Pennsylvania Regional College are defined as follows:

3.2.1 Communication is the accurate and appropriate use of verbal and written language to explain, discuss, facilitate, and comprehend the exchange of relevant knowledge, which includes information technology, critical thinking and information literacy

3.2.2 Reasoning is the development of a range of approaches for analysis, evaluation, and problem-solving that includes the ability to express informed opinions about artistic works; fluently and accurately use computational methods and

mathematical reasoning to solve problems and analyze data; and apply scientific approaches to explain physical phenomena.

- 3.2.3 Respect for diversity is demonstration of an appreciation of multiculturalism, promotion of a culture of respect for others, and recognition of differing ideas or opinions.
- 3.2.4 Professionalism is the adherence to principles of ethical behavior and organizational codes of conduct, the exercise of good judgement, and the assumption of personal responsibility for one's actions and choices.

4. POLICY

- 4.1 Northern Pennsylvania Regional College is committed to providing general education foundational to the development of the qualities, skills, and abilities associated with college-educated adults. All academic degree programs shall include general education foundational courses whose content, expectations, objectives, and learning outcomes embody the general education goals. Major courses within each academic degree program shall apply the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and abilities established by the general education foundational courses to the disciplines within the major.
- 4.2 Certificate and associate degree programs must include a full complement of general education foundational course requirements appropriate to the level of the degree, including courses essential to the development of foundational knowledge, skills, attitudes, and abilities in communication, reasoning, respect for diversity, and professionalism.
 - 4.2.1.1 In the Associate in Arts (AA) and Associate in Science (AS) degrees, a minimum of 27 semester hours of coursework shall be in general education and shall be composed of general education foundational courses commonly transferable to multiple public baccalaureate institutions.
 - 4.2.1.2 Required coursework must include at least two courses whose focus is communication, at least three courses whose focus is reasoning, at least two courses whose focus is respect for diversity, and emphasize professionalism throughout the curriculum.
 - 4.2.1.3 Each general education goal must be addressed and assessed in at least one course required for degree completion.
- 4.2.2 For the Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree, a minimum of 15 semester hours of coursework for programs awarding this degree shall be in general education unless otherwise required by the accrediting agency for the program.

- 4.2.2.1 Required general education coursework must include at least one course whose focus is communication, at least one course whose focus is reasoning, at least one course whose focus is respect for diversity, and emphasize professionalism throughout the curriculum. Other general education coursework required by the degree may be related to the specific occupational career area.
- 4.2.2.2 Each general education goal must be addressed and assessed in at least one course required for degree completion.
- 4.2.3 The Certificate in Applied Science (CAS) requires a minimum of 6 semester hours of coursework for the certificate shall be in general education.
 - 4.2.3.1 Required general education foundational courses shall include at least one course whose focus is communication, at least one course whose focus is reasoning, address and assess respect for diversity within at least one required course and emphasize professionalism throughout the curriculum.
 - 4.2.3.2 Each general education goal must be addressed and assessed in at least one required course.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES AND TIMELINES

- 5.1 Adherence to the general education philosophy and goals as defined is the responsibility of all who work and learn at Northern Pennsylvania Regional College. General education goals are addressed, imbedded, and assessed in all programs.

6. SIGNATURES

Signature on file

Chair, Board of Trustees	Date
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Signature on file

President	Date
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Attachments: NPRC-3015.A Assessment Release Form
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