



**NORTHERN
PENNSYLVANIA**
REGIONAL COLLEGE

Policy: NPRC-3015: General Education Philosophy and Goals

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Subject: General Education Philosophy and Goals

1. PURPOSE

The general education philosophy and goals of Northern Pennsylvania Regional College (NPRC or the College) describe the commitment of the college to provide each graduate with a strong foundation in general education, establishing 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 NPRC, the faculty who are responsible for instruction, and the academic administrative team.

3. REFERENCES

3.1 NPRC-3030: Academic Program Review

3.2 PROC-3030: Academic Program Review Procedure

4. DEFINITIONS

4.1 The philosophy of general education at NPRC 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.

4.2 Communication is the accurate and appropriate use of verbal and written language to explain, discuss, and facilitate the exchange of relevant knowledge using information technology, critical thinking, and information literacy.

4.3 Reasoning is the development of a range of approaches for analysis, evaluation, and problem-solving that includes fluent and accurate use of computational methods and mathematical approaches to solve problems and analyze data, application of scientific

approaches to explain physical phenomena, and expression of informed opinions about artistic or philosophical works.

- 4.4 Respect for diversity is the exploration and analysis of differing ideas, opinions, experiences, and worldviews.
- 4.5 Professionalism is adherence to principles of ethical behavior and organizational codes of conduct while assuming responsibility and accountability for one's actions.

5. POLICY

- 5.1 The College is committed to providing general education which is foundational to developing 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.
- 5.2 Upon successful program completion, graduates of a certificate or degree program should:
 - 5.2.1 Communicate accurately and appropriately using verbal and written language to explain, discuss, and facilitate the exchange of relevant knowledge using information technology, critical thinking, and information literacy.
 - 5.2.2 Demonstrate reasoning through a range of approaches for analysis, evaluation, and problem-solving that includes fluent and accurate use of computational methods and mathematical approaches to solve problems and analyze data, application of scientific approaches to explain physical phenomena, and expression of informed opinions about artistic or philosophical works.
 - 5.2.3 Explore and analyze respect for diversity through exposure to differing ideas, opinions, experiences, and worldviews.
 - 5.2.4 Exhibit professionalism through adherence to principles of ethical behavior and organizational codes of conduct while assuming responsibility and accountability for one's actions.
- 5.3 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.

5.4 In the Associate in Arts (AA) and Associate in Science (AS) degrees, a minimum of 27 credit hours of coursework shall be in general education and shall be composed of general education foundational courses commonly transferable to multiple public baccalaureate institutions.

5.4.1 Required general education coursework must include at least two courses whose focus is communication, include at least three courses whose focus is reasoning, include at least two courses whose focus is respect for diversity, and emphasize professionalism throughout the curriculum.

5.4.2 Academic program review as outlined in policy NPRC-3030: Academic Program Review and PROC-3030: Academic Program Review Procedure, ensures each general education goal must be addressed and assessed in at least one course required for degree completion.

5.5 For the Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree, a minimum of 15 credit hours of coursework for programs awarding this degree shall be in general education unless otherwise required by the accrediting agency for the program.

5.5.1 Required general education coursework must include at least one course whose focus is communication, include at least one course whose focus is reasoning, include 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.

5.5.2 Academic program review as outlined in policy NPRC-3030: Academic Program Review and PROC-3030: Academic Program Review Procedure, ensures each general education goal must be addressed and assessed in at least one course required for degree completion.

5.6 Certificates require a minimum of nine (9) credit hours of coursework in general education.

5.6.1 Required general education coursework must include at least one course whose focus is communication, at least one course whose focus is reasoning, and at least one course whose focus is respect for diversity.

5.6.2 Academic program review as outlined in policy NPRC-3030: Academic Program Review and PROC-3030: Academic Program Review Procedure,

ensures each general education goal must be addressed and assessed in at least one course required for degree completion.

6. RESPONSIBILITIES AND TIMELINES

6.1 Adherence to the general education philosophy and goals is the responsibility of all who work and learn at the College.

7. SIGNATURES

Signature on file

_____	_____
Chair, Board of Trustees	Date

Signature on file

_____	_____
President	Date

Attachments: None

Distribution: Board of Trustees; <https://regionalcollegepa.org>