Core Competencies

Las Positas College's faculty, administrators, staff and students will work toward and assess student learning outcomes and life long learning habits in the following areas:

Communication

Critical Thinking

Creativity and Aesthetics

Respect and Responsibility

Technology

Communication

Students **communicate** effectively in many different situations, involving diverse people and viewpoints, when they are able to:

1.1   Read
   a. Locate, interpret and analyze various types of written information in prose and in documents, such as articles, essays, literature, mass communication, manuals, graphs, and schedules.

1.2   Write
   a. Communicate thoughts, ideas, information, and messages in writing.
   b. Compose and create documents, such as essays, reports, letters, memorandums, and manuals, with correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and appropriate language, style, and format.
   c. Use tables, graphs, charts and diagrams to explain concepts or ideas.
   d. Review, revise and edit written work for correct information, appropriate emphasis, form, style, and grammar.

1.3   Dialogue
   a. Organize ideas and communicate oral, symbolic and/or artistic messages appropriate to the audience and the situation.
   b. Contribute constructively to conversations, discussions, and group activities.
   c. Receive, interpret, analyze, evaluate and respond appropriately to verbal, visual and symbolic messages.
   d. Ask questions to clarify the expressed messages of others and to evaluate whether their own messages have been clearly received by their audience.

Critical Thinking

Students are developing **critical thinking** when they use various approaches to:

2.1   Recognize and Define
   a. Demonstrate observation skills
   b. Identify and clearly define a problem to be solved, task to be performed or decision to be made

2.2   Gather and Evaluate Information
   a. Gather information from multiple sources (verbal, written, graphic, symbolic and numerical)
   b. Evaluate information for accuracy, reasonableness and usefulness

2.3   Reason
   a. Use logic to make inferences and connections
   b. Use numbers, operations and the relationships between them efficiently, effectively and appropriately
   c. Differentiate between facts, influences, assumptions and conclusions

2.4   Solve Problems
    a. Use mathematical thinking processes and skills in interpreting and dealing with mathematical and non-mathematical situations.
    b. Use scientific principles appropriately in problem solving and decision-making.
    c. Apply the scientific method by organizing, analyzing, and interpreting data appropriately.
    d. Identify the criteria to evaluate the solution, process, or decision
    e. Communicate procedures used and justify thinking used in solving the problem
    f. Make connections between new/old and/or unrelated ideas
    g. Combine information in new ways

2.5   Make Decisions
    a. Formulate alternative solutions, processes or decisions and identify potential consequences
    b. Select the appropriate solution, process or decision
    c. Recognize the role mathematics and science have had, and continue to have, in their own lives and in the world in the decision making process

Creativity and Aesthetics

Students demonstrate **creativity and aesthetic awareness** when they apply various approaches to:

3.1   Acquire knowledge using curiosity, imagination, and reflection;

3.2   Recognize aesthetic and cultural values from diverse disciplines;

3.3   Analyze, synthesize, evaluate and conceptualize creative and artistic expression across a range of contexts and cultures;

3.4   Value the diversity of our cultural heritage and the effects of artistic and/or philosophical influences;

3.5   Develop an appreciation of the ways that the arts and sciences enrich life and contribute to culture.

Respect and Responsibility

Respect and responsibility are practiced by students when they:

4.1   Self
    a. Define personal values and ethics
    b. Recognize their own biases
    c. Assess self-worth, strengths, weaknesses, and potential for personal and intellectual growth

    d. Identify and manage personal resources including time, finances, support systems.
    e. Set goals and devise strategies to reach them
    f. Respond appropriately to challenging situations
    g. Recognize the ethical dimensions of their decisions and accept responsibility for the consequences of their actions
    h. Exhibit personal and professional ethics and academic honesty

4.2 Others
    a. Respect the rights, work, and contributions of others
    b. Demonstrate appropriate social skills in a variety of situations, circumstances, and roles
    c. Recognize conflict and work towards mutual agreement

4.3 Professionalism
    a. Are dependable, reliable, and accountable
    b. Work collaboratively and independently
    c. Take direction and use constructive criticism effectively

4.4 Communities (local to global)
    a. Assume personal responsibility for being informed, ethical and active citizens of their community, the nation, and the world
    b. Act with an informed awareness of contemporary issues and their historical contexts
    c. Exercise civic responsibility
    d. Are cognizant of balancing human needs with the limitations of world resources
    e. Recognize the impact of human activity (political, economic, social, technological) on local and global environments

4.5 Diversity
    a. Recognize the commonality of human experiences across cultures
    b. Recognize the human tendency to gravitate towards people and customs that are familiar
    c. Recognize the influence of cultural perspectives on human thought and behavior
    d. Accept the rights of others to have different cultural beliefs and behaviors
    e. Work with diverse people including those with different physical abilities, linguistic, cultural, religious, lifestyle, national, and political backgrounds.

Technology

Students are developing **technology skills** when they are able to:

5.1 Determine which technology will produce the desired results

5.2 Use appropriate technology to acquire, organize, analyze, and communicate

5.3 Apply appropriate technology to solve problems

5.4 Use critical thinking skills to approach and utilize new technology