

Overview of Categories

Course/Category Pairings with Assessable Outcomes

- FYS: Experiential, Information Literacy, Communication Skills (oral), Technology
- CRWT: Information Literacy, Communication Skills (written)
- Civics: Ethics
- Creative: Experiential
- Global: International
- Inclusive: Sustainability
- Quantitative: Interdisciplinary
- Scientific: Critical Thinking

Definitions of each category and assessable Student Learning Outcomes are found under each category overview.

All General Education course submissions, regardless of the category, must include a **cover letter, syllabus, assignment descriptions and instructions**, submitted via CourseDog.

For all submissions, the **cover letter** and the **syllabus** will establish that:

- The course is at the 100/200 level unless it is a language course. In general, a 100/200-level course is designed for an all-college audience and for first-year or sophomore students and, in the case of a 100-level course, rarely has a prerequisite. **The only prerequisites in the General Education program can be FYS and CRWT 102.**
- The course meets the criteria of a General Education course and all outcomes.
- The assignments for the course assess General Education outcomes assigned to the particular category.
- The instructors of the course agree to participate in all assessment activities and all closing of the loop activities related to the outcomes within the respective Category.
- The course is consistent with the General Education rationale for the respective
- The majority of the course content focuses on the prescribed General Education content and the associated student learning outcomes.

The proposed **syllabus must include** the following items:

- A statement indicating the General Education category the course fulfills.
- The appropriate General Education outcomes for the category.
- A map of the assignment(s) to the outcomes.
- The assignment(s) that meet all the outcomes of the category

First Year Seminar (FYS)

	Explanation	Why It Matters	Learning Outcome(s)
First Year Seminar	First Year Seminar provides students with a strong foundation for success in college and achievement	Early exposure to what college means promotes future success.	Engage in critical analysis about college course content. Explain the expectations of college success
Experiential Learning	Experiential learning is a purposeful process of engaged, active learning in which the student constructs knowledge or skills, by means of direct experiences in real-world contexts.	Experiential learning bridges the gap between abstract theory and practical application, making learning more relevant and impactful for students.	Complete and reflect upon an experiential activity to explore a topic in the course.
Information Literacy	Information literacy includes the ability to evaluate evidence, analyze arguments, and distinguish credible sources from misinformation	Essential for navigating a world saturated with data, opinions, and disinformation	Students will learn to locate, evaluate, and responsibly use information from appropriate sources
Communication Skills (Oral)	Introduction to written, oral, and digital communication tailored to diverse audiences and purposes	Essential for success in nearly every career and civic engagement.	Demonstrate effective oral communication
Technology	Competence in using digital tools and platforms, and understanding their implications	Technology underpins nearly every field, and fluency enables innovation and adaptability	Use technology to manage information

CRWT 102: Critical Reading and Writing (CRWT)

	Explanation	Why It Matters	Learning Outcome(s)
Critical Reading and Writing	Students will develop the skills required to think and write critically about a variety of texts.	Students will learn techniques for performing close reading and critical analysis of texts.	Write effectively in scholarly contexts. Use language appropriate to the subject and audience.
Information Literacy	Information literacy includes the ability to evaluate evidence, analyze arguments, and distinguish credible sources from misinformation	Essential for navigating a world saturated with data, opinions, and disinformation	Students will learn to locate, evaluate, and responsibly use information from appropriate sources
Communication Skills (Written)	Introduction to written, oral, and digital communication tailored to diverse audiences and purposes	Essential for success in nearly every career and civic engagement.	Write multiple drafts of an assignment, incorporating feedback

Civics Category

Civics with Ethics Outcome

Category Description: Students will gain knowledge necessary to understand their role in society in historical or contemporary contexts. Must include discussions of ethics.

	Explanation	Why It Matters	Learning Outcome(s)
Civics	How students come to understand their world and act as competent participants in democracy.	Prepares students to be active, informed, and ethical individuals.	Use historical or contemporary contexts to understand the individual's role in society
Ethics	Reasoning about moral values and human conduct.	In thinking through ethics, we contemplate what we stand for, how we will treat others, and who we want to be.	Explain ethical viewpoints and their impacts upon communities

Civics Outcomes with Sample Assessment Grid

Outcome	Paper 1	Quiz 1	Final Exam
Use historical or contemporary contexts to understand the individual's role in society	X	X	
Explain ethical viewpoints and their impacts upon communities	X		X

Creative Category

Creative Category with Experiential Outcome

Category Description: Students will explore subjects in the creative arts to gain knowledge about creativity and critical analysis.

	Explanation	Why It Matters	Learning Outcome(s)
Creative	Integrating imaginative thinking, expression, and activities across all art forms and subject areas.	Imagination is crucial for driving progress and innovation, as it allows for thinking beyond current knowledge.	Interpret, create or perform a cultural product. Explain how cultural products produce meaning.
Experiential	Experiential learning is a purposeful process of engaged, active learning in which the student constructs knowledge or skills, by means of direct experiences in real-world contexts.	Experiential learning bridges the gap between abstract theory and practical application, making learning more relevant and impactful for students.	Complete and reflect upon an experiential activity to explore a topic in the course.

Outcomes for Creative Category with Sample Assessment Grid

Outcome	Quiz	Midterm	Project/ Final Paper
Interpret, create or perform a cultural product.	X		X
Explain how cultural products produce meaning.		X	X
Complete an experiential activity to explore a topic in the course.			X

Global Category*

Global with International Outcome

Category Description: Students will develop an understanding of an interconnected world by examining diverse perspectives, contexts, and interactions within and across societies and regions.

	Explanation	Why It Matters	Learning Outcome(s)
Global	Engaging, understanding, and evaluating with the interconnected world from multiple perspectives.	Prepares students to be active and engaged in a global society by learning through different lenses.	Interpret how cultural, social, historical, or political contexts influence experiences, practices, and institutions across different global contexts Analyze issues, experiences, or practices from perspectives within societies and regions of the world
International	Understanding relationships and processes across national boundaries in a world shaped by cross-national interactions and cultural differences.	Studying issues from multiple national boundaries and geographical perspectives challenges students' assumptions and personal biases, leading to more sophisticated critical analysis skills.	Analyze how cross-national interactions shape people, societies, and institutions.

* Language courses for this category may be beyond the 200-level.

Global Outcomes with Sample Assessment Grid

Outcome	Paper 1	Quiz 1	Final Exam
Interpret how cultural, social, historical, or political contexts influence experiences, practices, and institutions across different global contexts	X		
Analyze issues, experiences, or practices from perspectives within societies and regions of the world		X	
Analyze how cross-national interactions shape people, societies, and institutions.			X

Inclusive Category

Inclusive Category with Sustainability Outcome

Category Description: Students will examine how social identities and systems of power influence human experiences, and they will apply this understanding to promote inclusion of diverse perspectives across contexts.

	Explanation	Why It Matters	Learning Outcome(s)
Inclusive	Knowledge of social identity, social power, and diverse perspectives and ability to engage respectfully and effectively with others across differences to address inequity.	Key to collaboration in a globalized world and for inclusive leadership.	Demonstrate understanding of how social identities and systems of power shape human experiences. Apply knowledge of inequality to promote inclusion of diverse perspectives.
Sustainability	Sustainability is defined, in part, as humanity meeting the needs of the present without compromising ecological systems and the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In practice, this involves understanding how different groups relate to environments, and recognizing how benefits and harms are unevenly experienced within and across societies.	Prepares students to address social and environmental challenges and promote long-term well-being.	Use the relationship between human activity and ecological systems to evaluate sustainable practices.

Inclusive Category Sample Assessment Grid

Outcomes	Midterm	Paper	Exam
Demonstrate understanding of how social identities and systems of power shape human experiences.	X	X	
Apply knowledge of inequality to promote inclusion of diverse perspectives.	X		X
Use the relationship between human activity and ecological systems to evaluate sustainable practices.	X		X

Quantitative Category

Quantitative Category with Interdisciplinary Outcome

Category Description: Students will interpret and apply data. Must include real world interdisciplinary applications; using quantitative literacy to solve interdisciplinary problems.

	Explanation	Why It Matters	Learning Outcome(s)
Quantitative	Ability to interpret and analyze data, and apply quantitative reasoning in real-world contexts.	Critical for decision-making in everything from personal finance to scientific interpretation.	Use quantitative concepts or formal logic to solve problems. Communicate quantitative concepts through words, equations, tables, or graphs.
Interdisciplinary	Interdisciplinary education is the interaction, integration, or syntheses of knowledge and learning across disciplines.	The modern world's complex problems rarely fit neatly into the boundaries of a single academic discipline.	Apply quantitative methods to analyze an interdisciplinary, real-world problem.

Quantitative Category Outcomes with Sample Assessment Grid

Outcome	Quiz 1	Quiz 2	Exam
Communicate quantitative concepts through words, equations, tables, or graphs.	X		X
Use quantitative concepts or formal logic to solve problems.	X		X
Apply quantitative methods to analyze an interdisciplinary, real-world problem.		X	X

Scientific Category**Scientific with Critical Thinking Outcome**

Category description: Students will understand the scientific method and use data to evaluate a problem. They will also use scientific concepts and processes to access a scientific claim.

	Explanation	Why It Matters	Learning Outcome(s)
Scientific	The ability to understand, evaluate, and apply scientific knowledge to engage with science-related issues, make informed decisions in personal and societal contexts, and participate in reasoned discourse about science.	Basic proficiency in scientific literacy empowers people to make evidence-based decisions about their personal well-being and lifestyle, navigate misinformation, and engage with the world more effectively.	Evaluate a problem using the scientific method. Use scientific principles to assess a scientific claim
Critical Thinking	Objectively examining a subject to understand its components, assumptions, and implications, then forming a reasoned judgment or argument about its effectiveness, value, or meaning.	Critical analysis allows students to move beyond a simple summary	Analyze data to investigate a problem

Scientific Category Outcomes with Sample Assessment Grid

Outcome	Lab Report	Exams	Final Exam
Evaluate a problem using the scientific method.	X	X	X
Analyze data to investigate a problem	X	X	X
Use scientific principles to assess a scientific claim	X		X