

Achieving the USM Vision for General Education

When our general education is:

COHERENT

Learning experiences are designed to further learning goals in a cumulative and sequential manner across the student's entire college career. General education, the major, and the co-curriculum should form an intentional, coherent whole.

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INTEGRATIVE

Learning experiences are interdisciplinary in response to the explosion of knowledge in an increasingly complex and rapidly changing world; they develop the intellectual skills of connection and integration crucial to comprehending and effectively responding to complex problems.

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RIGOROUS

General education will maintain high expectations for teaching and learning, and both teaching and learning will be informed and improved by deliberate and explicit assessment.

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INCLUSIVE

Learning experiences require students to contend with varied and contested perspectives and diverse cultures, and to respectfully participate in learning environments honoring diversity.

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PRACTICAL

Learning experiences develop those capacities essential for college graduates to succeed in a complex, transforming, and diverse world: analytical skills, effective communication, practical intelligence, ethical judgment, and social responsibility.

Then it can systematically foster the values and dispositions, knowledge, and skills essential for students to demonstrate:

- Informed understandings of human cultures and the natural world.
- Analytical, contextual, and holistic thinking about complex issues.
- Effective communication using multiple literacies, and forms of expression.
- Critical reflection upon, and informed action in, their roles as citizens, family members, consumers, and producers.
- Ethical action to maintain their own health, and contribute to the social, environmental, and economic welfare of local and global communities.

And our graduates will

**World-
minded,
intentional,
life-long
learners**