

IPFW General Education (SD 99-25)
DRAFT LEARNING OBJECTIVES, AUGUST 2002

Overall Objectives (criteria that apply to courses in any GE area).

Upon completion of the IPFW general education curriculum, learners will be able to:

- Identify substantive knowledge and disciplinary methods;
- Gain and comprehend information;
- Use information;
- Analyze and synthesize information;
- Evaluate and assess their own and others' ideas.
- Use knowledge and skills gained as a basis for life-long learning.

AREA I

Upon completion of Area I, learners will be able to

- Speak and write precisely, clearly, and persuasively;
- Read and listen actively and with comprehension;
- Reason quantitatively as a means of gaining and creating knowledge and drawing conclusions;
- Demonstrate appropriate skills in computer literacy;
- Demonstrate appropriate information-gathering skills;
- Apply the above skills in a range of contexts;
- Formulate arguments in a variety of contexts;
- Assess their own arguments and compare and evaluate them with the arguments of others.

Courses in Areas II through VI require the application of skills acquired in Area I. Thus, upon completion of the general education program, learners will be able to use their foundation skills to describe, explain, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information.

AREA II

Upon completion of Area II, learners will be able to:

- Describe the physical, chemical, or biological bases of living and non-living systems;
- Explain how scientific knowledge is developed, how observations are made, how hypotheses are formulated and tested, how theories are developed;
- Understand data collection, analysis, and quantitative problem solving;
- Demonstrate their familiarity with scientific literature;
- Apply their knowledge in written and/or oral communication.

AREA III

Upon completion of Area III, learners will be able to:

- Understand the nature and diversity of individuals, organizations, cultures and societies;
- Explain how knowledge of social and behavioral processes is developed, how information is gathered, hypotheses formulated and analyzed, and theories developed;
- Apply their knowledge in written and/or oral communication;
- Understand data collection, analysis, and quantitative problem solving.

AREA IV

Upon completion of Area IV, learners will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of scholarly approaches to such abiding issues as the meaning of life, the role of the arts in understanding of what being human means, and the limits of knowledge;
- Evaluate traditions that have shaped the learners' values, beliefs, and aesthetic preferences;
- Compare traditions that have shaped the learner to different traditions;
- Interpret written work or creative work e. g., essays, works of art and music;
- Apply their knowledge in written and/or oral communication;
- Understand data collection, analysis, and quantitative problem solving.

AREA V

Upon completion of Area V, learners will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the creative process;
- Apply that understanding to a performance and/or creation of a work of personal expression;
- Explain how the creative process develops from the idea stage to production;
- Synthesize elements of a particular medium into a final work;
- Use applicable skills and techniques to bring the work to fruition;
- Integrate the processes of observation, reflection, and critical evaluation in the learner's work;
- Apply their knowledge in written and/or oral communication.

AREA VI

Upon completion of Area VI, learners will be able to:

- Gather, evaluate, select, organize and synthesize material in order to complete a research or creative project;
- Present the project in an appropriate medium;
- Think critically and solve problems by applying knowledge and skills gained in earlier courses;
- Apply the knowledge gained across disciplinary boundaries.