

Liberal Learning at Michigan State University

The total effect of the knowledge and skills described in the following goals for liberal learning results in the MSU graduate having the potential to be an outstanding leader – perceiving and developing opportunities, actively fostering and guiding change, and applying skills and knowledge to understand and articulate complex issues of work, community, and public life. Students who complete an undergraduate degree program at Michigan State University are expected to demonstrate:

Integrated Judgment

The MSU graduate will effectively synthesize specialized discipline-based knowledge with a broad-based liberal arts education, understand the importance of life-long learning, and make decisions that reflect humane, social, ethical, and aesthetic sensibilities developed through coherent curricular and co-curricular activities.

Advanced Communication Skills

The MSU graduate will be a competent writer and speaker, able to write and speak effectively in a variety of situations and to a variety of audiences, able to write and speak with authority within a professional area, and able to write and speak effectively and persuasively as a citizen in the public arena.

Cultural Competence

The MSU graduate will have explored global, cultural, social, and intellectual diversity and will value the experiential and intellectual diversity of the academic community.

Analytical Thinking

The MSU graduate will be a critical user of knowledge, adept at using current technologies to access information and having the ability to analyze complex information critically, using multiple modes of inquiry (i.e., scientific, artistic, literary, and information methodologies).

Literacy in Science & Mathematics

The MSU graduate will demonstrate ability to formulate, evaluate, and communicate conclusions and inferences from quantitative information, employing analytical arguments and reasoning built upon fundamental concepts and skills of science, mathematics, statistics, and computing.

Effective Citizenship

The MSU graduate will have a sense of responsibility for a dynamic, democratic society that offers broad opportunities and requires the ability to function in an interdependent world.

Connecting the campus internationalization initiative to the Outcomes for Liberal Learning, a working group of faculty and staff developed global definitions related to each liberal learning area. These definitions provide guidance for faculty and staff as they consider how they might develop students' global-competence in the context of their personal and professional lives.

Global-Competency Statements

(1) Graduates will demonstrate *Integrated Judgment* to:

- Understand their place in the world relative to historical, geopolitical, and intellectual trends, including the socio-cultural, economic, and ecological influences on these trends.
- Perceive the world as an interdependent system, recognizing the effects of this system on their lives and their personal influence on the system.
- Frame, understand, and act upon their judgments from multi-disciplinary perspectives & worldviews.

(2) Graduates will demonstrate the *Advanced Communication Skills* to:

- Recognize the influence of cultural norms, customs, and traditions on communication and use this knowledge to enhance their interactions across diversity.
- Employ a proficiency in a second language and understand how language relates to culture.
- Use observation, conflict management, dialogue, and active listening as means of understanding and engaging with different people and perspectives.
- Communicate their ideas and values clearly and effectively in multiple contexts, with diverse audiences, and via appropriate media and formats.

(3) Graduates will demonstrate the *Cultural Competence* to:

- Understand the influence of history, geography, religion, gender, race, ethnicity, and other factors on their identities and the identities of others.
- Recognize the commonalities and differences that exist among people and cultures and how these factors influence their relationships with others.
- Question explicit and implicit forms of power, privilege, inequality, and inequity.
- Engage with and be open to people, ideas, and activities from other cultures as a means of personal and professional development.

(4) Graduates will demonstrate *Analytical Thinking* to:

- Understand the complexity and interconnectedness of global processes—such as the environment, trade, and human health—and be able to critically analyze them, as well as compare and contrast them across different cultures and contexts.
- Synthesize knowledge and meaning from multiple sources to enhance decision-making in diverse contexts.
- Use technology, human and natural capital, information resources, and diverse ways of knowing to solve problems.

(5) Graduates will demonstrate *Literacy in Science and Math* to:

- Use and apply spatial reasoning and analysis skills (e.g., map reading).
- Understand how the natural sciences and mathematics contribute to knowledge of global processes, such as those related to health, food systems, energy and other areas.
- Understand the role, potential, and limits of using science, math, and technology to address global issues and that cultures and disciplines conceptualize data, methodologies, and solutions differently.

(6) Graduates will demonstrate *Effective Citizenship* to:

- Develop a personal sense of ethics, service, and civic responsibility that informs their decision-making about social and global issues.
- Understand the connection between their personal behavior and its impact on global systems.
- Use their knowledge, attitudes, and skills to engage with issues that address challenges facing humanity locally and globally.

For more information about these initiatives and the work associated with them, please connect to the web at <http://undergrad.msu.edu/> or contact the Associate Provost's Office for Undergraduate Education at 517-353-5380.

For questions specifically about campus internationalization, the global-competency statements, or working with your curricula related to issues of global and international learning, please contact Jim Lucas at 517-355-0171 or via email at lucasjam@msu.edu.