

Core Curriculum Skills and Connections

Skills	Knowledge Areas	Actions	Connections to Work and Life
Reading Comprehension	Communication	Read the assigned material twice. Once for overview and again for facts and details. Understand the sequence of events in works. Focus on concepts, trends and patterns in the material.	Helps you understand how to read complex documents (ex: mortgage papers, employment contracts, professional articles/documents, bank documents, investments). Identifying patterns and trends is applicable in any career. Enhances reading for enjoyment.
Writing Competency	Communication	Develop writing skills including being grammatically correct and using punctuation correctly. This goes beyond the five paragraph papers that were taught in high school.	You will draw on this skill set when writing reports in your profession (annual reviews, project updates, professional articles, etc.). Outside of work, you may use this skill set to settle disputes (perhaps you will need to write a letter to your insurance company or a credit card company).
Communication	Communication	Be able to express your opinions both verbally and non-verbally. Be able to cite sources properly. Know what plagiarism is and how to avoid doing it.	This is a critical skill set to have in life and work --- you need to know how to express yourself articulately, whether it is holding a conversation with colleagues or strangers, making an effective presentation, or communicating your thoughts/ideas in various formats (artistic mediums and written words). Creativity in communication involves understanding non-verbal communication, expressiveness, intonation, and body language. You need to be able to identify sources of information that you use in your professional work and provide attribution for the ideas of others.
Analytical	Communication, Humanities, Math, Statistics, Science, Human Health and Behavior	Locating and evaluating sources and determining which information is pertinent to your topic. What is valid or invalid? Compare and contrast theories, behaviors, events. Recognize how new problems are different from sample problems and how problem types differ. Study unexplained phenomena, describe how events occur, and be able to explain why natural phenomena occur.	Research skills come in where you least expect them. You may need them when you have to find supporting evidence to back up an idea or proposal you have at work. You may need to find statistics on an issue to support an argument. You may need to research graduate schools or consumer products. If you get sick, you might want to research treatments. Analytical skills also help you become more objective and make informed decisions. If you are faced with an ethical issue or caught between friends who are in an argument, you can take all sides into account and base your decision/action(s) on complete information. This is scientific method. Propose a hypothesis and test it to verify how something works and even predict behavior. This works in everything from psychology and sociology to rocket science.
Conceptual	Communication, Humanities, Fine Arts, Human Health and Behavior	The mental ability to coordinate interests and activities and visualize.	You will be learning how to make connections in your life and how to see things in context. For instance, you will begin seeing how college core classes helped you build skill sets needed in various parts of your career. Or you may start to see how previous experiences relate to your current situation. You are better prepared to see things within context, meaning you can see things more objectively. For instance, you are evaluating members of your group for a class assignment. One of your group members has been showing up late and has poor concentration. Out of context, you might review him or her poorly. However, the person may have had a death in the family or a major problem at home. Knowing these things, you can look at the situation in context, taking into account all the variables which allows you to make an informed decision.
Logic	Math, Science	Reasoning, inductive and deductive, to solve problems	This helps you learn how to problem solve effectively. Problems will come up in work and in life -- you can apply logic to solving these problems. You may also use decision making models that you learned in different classes. This could be as simple as understanding how two prescription drugs could counteract each other, or understanding the differences between a car accident occurring at ten miles per hour and 80 miles per hour. Knowledge effects decision making.
Organization	Humanities, Math, Science, Human Health and Behavior	Creating structure and clear patterns or correct placement	This will assist you in organizing efforts at work or home. By understanding how things can be grouped together (where things should go that would make the most sense), you can organize your time and thoughts more effectively.
Abstraction	Math, Science, Human Health and Behavior	The process of generalizing by reducing information, content, or concepts.	Thinking abstractly helps you understand large issues by simplifying complex systems in a visual manner which you can then comprehend. Think maps! This allows you to apply a principle like diffusion to traffic patterns for timing traffic lights.
Quantitative Analysis	Math, Science, Human Health and Behavior, Economics, Political Science, Statistics	The study of quantity, structure, space, relation, change, and patterns (deductive reasoning).	This involves numerical representations of any process you need to understand. It allows you to make predictions on everything from weather to the time value of money.
Creativity	Fine Arts	Express yourself using words, ideas, or materials to create art forms or new concepts.	In work and life, you may find that you run into problems that require creative solutions. If you have been exposed to classes that have required you to think creatively (creative writing) or be creative (art, theatre, music), you will be more inclined to use your creativity to come up with a solution that is "outside the box." For example, in an art history course, you may come across a painting or a sculpture that you now think would be perfect in a marketing campaign in your career. If the art is contemporary, you may even be able to commission the artist to create a piece specifically for the marketing campaign.

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Diversity	Culture, Languages and Social Structures of Other Countries	Understanding multiculturalism, understanding demographics	Workplaces are steadily becoming more diverse --- you will work with people who have a different cultural background than you. Learning how to be sensitive to differences as well as value them can help you connect with others and bridge communication gaps. (Your foreign language classes are a great opportunity to learn about a different culture --- the customs and traditions.)
Cultural	Culture, Languages and Social Structures of Other Countries	Understanding shared attitudes, values, goals, and practices; an integrated pattern of knowledge.	This allows you to appreciate differences of others while seeing how much we do have in common.
Team/Group Dynamics	Human Health and Behavior	Understanding social relationships and the process of interaction and influence through norms, roles, and behaviors.	This is necessary in understanding public health issues from obesity to swine flu and understanding appropriate responses and actions.
Interpersonal	Human Health and Behavior	Develop an understanding of why people do things and how different people work. What makes us tick?	Helps you understand where people may be coming from and why they do what they do. This knowledge can help you take things less personally and become more compassionate.
Intrapersonal	Human Health and Behavior	Develop an understanding of group dynamics and how groups come together to form societies. Understanding your own group roles. What parts of society do you belong to -- why?	Understanding social norms which are behavioral expectations in a group. Knowing the rules for what is considered appropriate or inappropriate behaviors. Working within social norms can lead to acceptance and a better understanding of any given circumstance. It also helps you understand where people may be coming from and why they do what they do. This knowledge can help you take things less personally and be a force for positive change.