

Undergraduate Learning Goals & Global Competence at MSU

A broad education enhances the potential that MSU graduates will be outstanding leaders and life-long learners. These learning goals, associated outcomes, and linked global competencies are intended to provide a framework for students' active engagement in learning both in and out of the classroom. Students who complete an undergraduate degree program at Michigan State University will demonstrate the knowledge, attitudes and skills associated with the following interconnected goals and outcomes:

Institutional Learning Goal	Undergraduate Learning Outcome	Global Competency
<p>Analytical Thinking The MSU graduate uses ways of knowing from mathematics, natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, and arts to access information and critically analyzes complex material in order to evaluate evidence, construct reasoned arguments, and communicate inferences and conclusions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquires, analyzes, and evaluates information from multiple sources • Synthesizes and applies the information within and across disciplines • Identifies and applies, as appropriate, quantitative methods for defining and responding to problems • Identifies the credibility, use and misuse of scientific, humanistic and artistic methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands the complexity and interconnectedness of global processes—such as environment, trade, and human health—and is able to critically analyze them, as well as compare and contrast them across different cultures and contexts. • Synthesizes knowledge and meaning from multiple sources to enhance decision-making in diverse contexts. • Uses technology, human and natural capital, information resources, and diverse ways of knowing to solve problems.
<p>Cultural Understanding The MSU graduate comprehends global and cultural diversity within historical, artistic, and societal contexts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflects on experiences with diversity to demonstrate knowledge and sensitivity • Demonstrates awareness of how diversity emerges within and across cultures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands the influence of history, geography, religion, gender, race, ethnicity, and other factors on their identities and the identities of others. • Recognizes the commonalities and differences that exist among people and cultures and how these factors influence their relationships with others. • Questions explicit and implicit forms of power, privilege, inequality, and inequity. • Engages with and is open to people, ideas, and activities from other cultures as a means of personal and professional development.
<p>Effective Citizenship The MSU graduate participates as a member of local, national, and global communities and has the capacity to lead in an increasingly interdependent world</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands the structures of local, national, and global governance systems and acts effectively within those structures in both individual and collaborative ways • Applies knowledge and abilities to solve societal problems in ethical ways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops a personal sense of ethics, service, and civic responsibility that informs their decision-making about social and global issues. • Understands the connection between their personal behavior and its impact on global systems. • Uses their knowledge, attitudes, and skills to engage with issues that address challenges facing humanity locally and globally.

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<p>Effective Communication The MSU graduate uses a variety of media to communicate effectively with diverse audiences</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies how contexts affect communication strategies and practices Engages in effective communication practices in a variety of situations and with a variety of media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognizes the influence of cultural norms, customs, and traditions on communication and uses this knowledge to enhance their interactions across diversity. Employs a proficiency in a second language and understands how language relates to culture. Uses observation, conflict management, dialogue, and active listening as means of understanding and engaging with different people and perspectives. Communicates their ideas and values clearly and effectively in multiple contexts, with diverse audiences, and via appropriate media and formats.
<p>Integrated Reasoning The MSU graduate integrates discipline-based knowledge to make informed decisions that reflect humane social, ethical, and aesthetic values</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critically applies liberal arts knowledge in disciplinary contexts and disciplinary knowledge in liberal arts contexts Uses a variety of inquiry strategies incorporating multiple views to make value judgments, solve problems, answer questions, and generate new understandings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understands their place in the world relative to historical, geopolitical, and intellectual trends, including the geographic, socio-cultural, economic, and ecological influences on these trends. Perceives the world as an interdependent system, recognizing the effects of this system on their lives and their personal influence on the system. Frames, understands, and acts upon their judgments from multi-disciplinary perspectives and worldviews. Understands how different disciplines contribute to knowledge of global processes, such as those related to health, food systems, energy and other areas. Understands the cultural, disciplinary, and contextual role, potential, and limits of problem-solving techniques and that cultures and disciplines conceptualize data, methodologies, and solutions differently.

Support is available from the Office of Undergraduate Education. Our staff can assist you with course development and design, and assessment related to the integration of the Undergraduate Learning Goals and Global Competencies into your academic programs. Please contact James M. Lucas (Jim) for assistance and questions, phone: 517-355-0171, email: lucasjam@msu.edu.