

X. General Education Goals
University of South Carolina Lancaster
General Education Goals

General education is the set of fundamental skills (reading, writing, reasoning, and oral communication), the knowledge, and the capacity for thought needed to pursue further learning, to succeed in chosen fields, and to assume the responsibilities of informed and enlightened citizenship.

From a broad commitment to equity, USC Lancaster

- ⊙ Seeks to make education accessible, affordable, and convenient
- ⊙ encourages teaching innovation and adaptation
- ⊙ encourages participatory student learning
- ⊙ provides a supportive educational climate that actively and positively
- ⊙ addresses intellectual and cultural diversity, and
- ⊙ responds affirmatively to the needs of its students

USC Lancaster works to help its pre-baccalaureate students attain skills and attributes in the areas of communication, critical thinking, cultural literacy, and personal development. Students in the two-year occupational programs focus on those areas most appropriate to their professional education program.

Communication Skills

USC Lancaster helps its students read effectively and attain a basic familiarity with the basic texts of Western and other cultures. In the area of writing skills, USC Lancaster students work to develop the ability to write effectively for both academic and professional audiences. In addition, USC Lancaster helps its students learn to listen critically and speak effectively before a group.

In Math 141 students improve their oral communication skills through interactive learning and classroom participation. This course provides an open environment in which students are free to exchange ideas and explain their reasoning. This course improves written communications skills via open-ended homework and test questions that require thorough explanation of the reasoning required to solve a problem, as well as a verbal explanation of the solution. Students also improve their writing skills by completing Maple based projects in which they use software to solve problems that arise in math-related fields, such as business, physics, engineering, or biology, and then complete a report on their results, as they would when working in industry. They also improve writing skills by submitting coversheets with their homework, explaining the material in their own words.

Critical Thinking

USC Lancaster helps its students acquire analytical reasoning abilities and exercise informed value judgments. USC Lancaster students also work to develop mathematical and/ or computational skills.

In Math 141 students improve their critical thinking skills by using mathematical logic and analytic reasoning to solve real world problems.

Cultural Literacy

USC Lancaster strives to give its students an understanding of the history and culture of Western civilization as well as provide some exposure to other cultures. USC Lancaster also recognizes the centrality of science and technology to modern culture; therefore, USC Lancaster students also are offered opportunities to increase their understanding and familiarity in these crucial subject areas.

In Math 141 students are exposed to the development of calculus. They are introduced to concepts by developing the theory during class. Then they must apply these concepts to real world situations with the help of technology.

Student Development

USC Lancaster supports the intellectual, personal, physical, and social development of students, in recognition of the critical interdependency of all these areas. By providing opportunities for productive interaction with students, faculty, and staff, USC Lancaster helps students develop a spirit of curiosity, integrity, and confidence in planning and pursuing academic, career, and personal goals.

In Math 141 students are encouraged to challenge the concept that "there is exactly one right answer in math". Many of the questions posed in this course are open to interpretation, and students are encouraged to give logical reasons for their claims. Students also grow socially by learning to work cooperatively in groups.